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THE TIMES 35P

No. 65,914 THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

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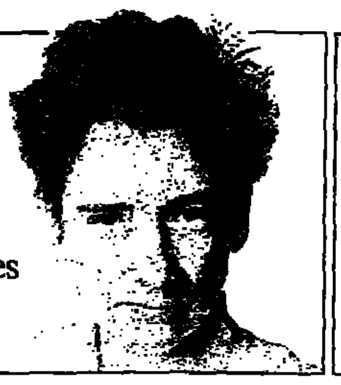

BEST for JOBS

Graduates	24K
Managers	70K
Marketing	90K
Executives	100K

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Cold shoulder for new ruling body

Hong Kong flying visit for Blair

By Philip Webster, political editor, and James Pringle in Beijing

TONY BLAIR is to boycott China's attempts to secure legitimacy for Hong Kong's unelected legislature at the events marking the territory's return to Beijing.

The Prime Minister will attend the midnight handover ceremony on June 30. But he will not attend the inauguration of the new ruling body and instead fly back to London almost immediately.

Britain had been concerned at attempts to have the members of the Provisional Legislative Council sworn in in the presence of foreign guests. Neither Britain nor America recognises this body which will take office when the Chinese assume control.

The Foreign Office said: "There has never been any question of British ministers attending the swearing-in of a legislature chosen by a handpicked body of 400."

Mr Blair's decision came as it was confirmed that Chinese Communist leaders would stand on Hong Kong soil for the first time during the June 30 ceremonies. Beijing ended months of speculation on the level of representation by announcing that President Jiang Zemin and the Premier, Li Peng, would attend.

It had often been assumed that Li Peng, one of the men behind the military crackdown at Tiananmen Square in 1989, would not attend, given his poor international image and the fact that some ordinary Hong Kong Chinese say they fear him.

However, in the delicate power equation after the death of paramount leader Deng Xiapong, there are probably internal political reasons why the Premier should be in Hong Kong for China's resumption of sovereignty after 158 years.

Announcing that he would join the Prince of Wales and Robin Cook at the handover, Mr Blair told the Commons that Britain had a moral duty to the colony's population: "We do owe a considerable obligation to the 6.5 million people who live in Hong Kong. We are committed to the Joint Declaration that protects the rights of people in Hong Kong. We are committed to that and we will make sure and do everything in our power to make sure it is carried out."

Mr Blair recalled that action had been taken to ensure people in Hong Kong were helped to get British passports "precisely because of the concerns that we had", and he added: "We take those concerns very seriously, we take their interests very seriously and though, of course, we wish for good relations with China — that is important both for Hong Kong and the British national interest — we want to make sure that the words of the Joint Declaration are carried out."

Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, welcomed Mr Blair's announcement.

Both Jiang and Li, and foreign minister Qian Qichen, will spend only a few hours in Hong Kong before flying back to Beijing, where midnight ceremonies will have been held at a ticket-only occasion in Tiananmen Square - most such events in China will be by invitation only through the danweis or work units; the masses for whom the Communist Party says it speaks can watch on television.

Jiang will then host a state banquet in the Great Hall of the People here, top be attended by 3,500 guests.

In Hong Kong, up to 2,000 PLA soldiers will arrive in the SAR at the stroke of midnight, and the remaining 4,000 troops of Beijing's initial military presence will move in during the early hours of 1 July, acording to Hong Kong press reports.

French backing for Britain's frontiers

From Andrew Pierce in Paris

PRESIDENT CHIRAC of France gave a positive response last night to Tony Blair in his battle to keep Britain's border controls.

The support of M Chirac — which looks likely after 60 minutes of talks at the Elysée Palace — would be a decisive factor in the Prime Minister's efforts to secure legal protection for Britain's frontiers at the EU summit in Amsterdam next week.

The French appear ready to line up behind Germany, who signalled support last week for Britain against the Dutch, who hold the European Union presidency. The Dutch are Britain's main opponents.

Mr Blair made clear in the talks that the protection of British frontiers was the main stumbling block to reaching an agreement at the conference. He stressed that he was not prepared to make a concession and accept an opt-out on border controls which could be liable to a legal challenge in the European courts. He told M Chirac that he wanted the agreement enshrined in writing in the new treaty. In an interview with the BBC shortly before he touched down in Paris, he said: "It's tremendously important for Britain to secure in legal force in the treaty our own frontiers so we have control over our own immigration and asylum policy."

The Prime Minister insisted he was not a new kid on the block lecturing the rest of the EU. "We are saying that Britain is back on the international stage."

President Chirac expressed no objections to Mr Blair's plans to resist the Dutch proposals for a European-wide frontier which would effectively demolish Britain's island status. Hubert Vedrine, the new Foreign Minister in Lionel Jospin's Socialist Government who attended the talks, also raised no objections.

A Downing Street source said that the Prime Minister was greatly encouraged by the reception from President Chirac. "We remain very hopeful," he said.

SIMON WALKER

Professor M.R.D. Foot, who escaped using one of the Waddington Monopoly maps, holding the prototype silk map

Monopoly got PoWs out of jail free

By Peter Foster

LETTERS detailing the secret network established by British intelligence and the makers of Monopoly to help Allied prisoners to escape German-occupied Europe have been found in a disused factory basement.

The wartime archive of correspondence between MI9 and John Waddington shows how agents posing as bureaucrats made deals with the company to supply maps, compasses and sword blades in special editions of the property game. That meant that when German guards thought their prisoners were playing a simple game of cards or Monopoly, they were often plotting to get out of jail free.

The correspondence between Mr N. V. Watson, of Waddingtons, and an MI9 agent named E. D. Alston, who was working undercover as Deputy Assistant Director of Clothing and Textiles at the Ministry of Supply in Leeds, talks in veiled terms of the secret escape aids and of leaving packages to be collected by agents at King's Cross station in London.

In a letter dated September 24, 1942, Alston writes of the "special interest" his department has in any board games Waddingtons can supply "vide our conversation on Monday with reference to Car Parking". Alston is referring to the "Free Parking" space on a Monopoly board, which the company altered to indicate that a set contained a map of Northern France, Germany and their frontiers.

The War Office developed a series of codes for identifying which maps were concealed in which Monopoly sets. A letter of April 4, 1941, addressed to a Captain Clayton-Hutton tells how the sets were to be coded by placing a full stop after a given location on the board. A point after Marylebone Station indicated Italy; after Mayfair indicated Norway, Sweden and Germany; and a full stop after the Electric Company meant the set contained a tiny compass.

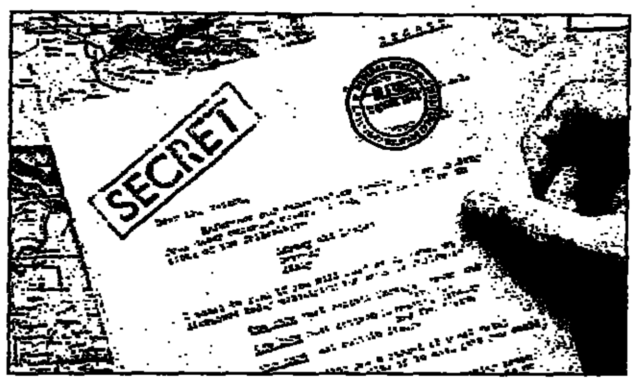
Waddingtons, which also printed banknotes, was chosen for this secret work because of its ability to print on silk, a technique it had developed for work in the theatre. The company was contacted by Captain Clayton-Hutton early in the war and troops were told how to decipher the coding before leaving for occupied Europe.

Many of the letters evoke the wartime culture of secrecy that surrounded the transactions between MI9 and Waddingtons. An unsigned letter of March 1942 says: "We have dispatched 400 of the four-sheet Dutch Girl design on paper. These were addressed to Major Clayton-Hutton, King's Cross Station, marked 'to be called for'."

As well as maps, the company also sent tiny hacksaws concealed in pencils and shoelaces and compasses in sets of the detective game Cluedo.

Professor M.R.D. Foot, Bri-

Continued on page 2, col 6



One of the letters from the wartime archive

New laws may place curbs on surrogate mothers

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

LAWS to impose greater controls on surrogate motherhood will be considered by an independent inquiry set up by the Government yesterday after a series of cases that highlighted the way legislation is failing to prevent commercialisation.

Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, told the Commons she had decided to set up the independent review because of public concern. She has chosen three experts in medicine, law and ethics, to carry out the inquiry by Christmas.

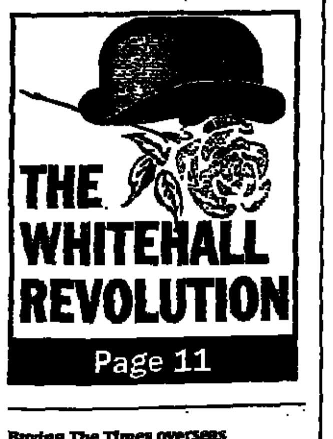
The main question is whether payments, including expenses, should continue to be allowed to surrogate mothers, and if so, on what basis. The inquiry will also consider whether to set up a body to regulate surrogacy arrangements. The team will advise on whether there is a need to change the law.

There was public concern last month over the case of Karen Roche, who is understood to have received £12,000 in expenses from a Dutch couple to have a baby for them. She later decided to have the child and keep it.

The Dutch family made the arrangement with the help of Cots, an organisation set up by Kim Cotton, Britain's first surrogate mother, who tries to find surrogates for childless couples.

She said that she was glad the inquiry had been set up because the work of Cots was getting too difficult. "We have done our best, but it is getting too big for us. We need to have better screening and vetting of the people involved."

But she said that halting payments to surrogate mothers would stop most of them volunteering. "We would like to see contracts between couples and surrogate mothers enforced to protect everyone."



THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

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Stowaways' 185mph trip under Eurostar

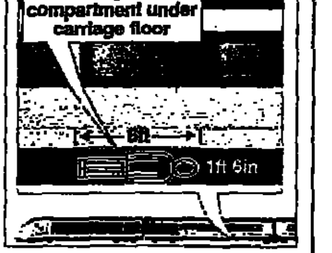
By Kathryn Knight

FOUR illegal immigrants were being questioned last night after travelling into Britain crammed in a box under a Eurostar carriage.

The stowaways from Moldova had squeezed into a space about 18 ins high and only a few feet wide, and were surrounded by ventilation equipment and machinery as the train raced through France at up to 185 mph.

They were discovered when stewards serving breakfast heard tapping beneath their feet as the the train slowed down for the approach to Ashford International station.

British Transport Police were alerted and the four men were rescued, arrested and taken to Dover for questioning by immigration officials. None was seriously injured, although they were suffering from shock.



Last night Eurostar launched an investigation into how the four managed to sneak past security officals to board the 8.13 from Paris Gare du Nord to London Waterloo.

Under-carriage equipment such as batteries, pipes, wires and ventilators is contained in a metal box. The space can be reached via a hatch on the outside of the carriage to which only Eurostar engineers have the key.

Wimbledon side sold to Norway

By John Goodbody

TWO leading Norwegian businessmen are to spend about £30 million to buy an 80 per cent stake in Wimbledon, so becoming the first foreigners to become majority shareholders in a Premiership football club.

Kjell Inge Roekke, 38, who owns Europe's biggest trawler fleet, and his associate, Bjoern Rune Gjelsten, are to inject money into the small South London club that won the 1988 FA Cup.

The pair already own an elite club, Molde FK, which won the Norwegian cup in 1994. Mr Gjlesten, 40, said yesterday: "We have ambitions for a fruitful co-operation between Molde and Wimbledon."

£30m injection, page 52

Ann Widdecombe switches to Clarke

By Philip Webster, political editor

ANN WIDDECOMBE, the former Prisons Minister, last night threw her support behind Kenneth Clarke in the Tory leadership race.

Miss Widdecombe, who voted for Peter Lilley in the first round, gave the former Chancellor's campaign an important boost after the surge for William Hague, the front-runner, who gained the support of Mr Lilley and Michael Howard on Tuesday night.

She became the first senior Eurosceptic to transfer to Mr Clarke. His stance on Europe is seen as one of the obstacles to him going through to victory in the later stages.

Miss Widdecombe's devastating attack on Mr Howard's handling as Home Secretary of the sacking of Derek Lewis, the former prisons chief, damaged Mr Howard's leadership campaign. He finished fifth and last in the opening round. Meanwhile feuding on the Right erupted yesterday as John Redwood resisted calls to pull out and questioned Mr Hague's right-wing and Eurosceptic credentials.

Amid clear signs that the contest will go to a third and final ballot after Tuesday's second round, Mr Clarke also moved to slow the Hague bandwagon by warning his opponents that the battle could not be settled through a series of backstage deals.

Mr Clarke, who finished top in the first round on Tuesday but may be trailing Mr Hague in the run-up to the second, said that secret deals would

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Here beginneth a lesson according to Blair

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

THUS far, Tony Blair is doing well at the remodelled Prime Minister's Questions. He is confident and plausible, and acquits himself with growing aplomb. To two pet tactics we noted last week — promising a "review" and bemoaning the mess left by the Tories — we can now add a third.

Challenged over the practicalities of any promised government action, Mr Blair offers instead an impassioned sermonette on the reason why the Government wished to act in the first place.

Yesterday, accused by Michael Heseltine (deputising for John Major) of ratting on undertakings to children on assisted places, Mr Blair spoke movingly of the philosophy behind the winding up of the scheme. This was interesting, but not the point Mr Heseltine had raised.

Accused by Paddy Ashdown of applying public spending curbs in an unintelligent way, the Prime Minister spoke with feeling on the need to curb public spending. One sympathised, but heard no answer to Mr Ashdown's question.

The tactic is effective but could be taken too far. One fears that if Cherie were to ask whether Tony had remembered to put the cat out, she might be treated to a disquisition on the importance of responsible pet-ownership.

Besides, his parliamentary foes are not so easily brushed aside, now the old, twice-weekly session of Prime Minister's Questions has been abolished.

Instead of allowing the leaders of the two main opposition parties a short crack at him on Tuesday and Thursday, Mr Blair's Wednesday brings a single but sustained grilling.

Last week, John Major drew blood by pinning him down in a long wrangle over devolution. This week it was Paddy Ashdown's turn to poke the Prime Minister with a stick.

His point was a narrow one: Labour had promised not to increase spending plans in any department. Did this mean that money saved in one department could not be reallocated to another?

Amid a good deal of huffing and puffing, the Prime Minister seemed to confirm that it did. Well, said Ashdown, this was doctrinaire and contrary to common sense. Blair began to wriggle, his "look" count ("look, it's always possible to say . . .) rising alarmingly.

When Mr Blair begins to scatter "look" into his speech, it is a sign he is overheating — rather like a backfiring car. Finally he protested: "I have to say I do not think that is a very substantial point." In other words: "I can't answer it."

Tories found themselves cheering the Liberal Democrat leader, even though (if they thought about it) they probably supported Mr Blair over spending.

Mr Blair then told Mr Ashdown why one could not increase spending on everything one's heart desired. Ashdown had never suggested that one could.

Perhaps it was this exchange which injected a little tension into the Prime Minister's performance. Sylvia Heal (Lab, Halesowen & Rowley Regis) rose to put to him a simple sum: 203 minus five. A look of panic crossed Mr Blair's face. Was this a trick question? Was the answer not 198?

How appalling if he got it wrong. Who can forget the US Vice-President mistaking the spelling of potato?

But Mrs Heal was not trying to catch her leader out. She simply wanted to make the point that half of Britain's 9-year-olds cannot do this sum. 44-year-olds like Mr Blair were not being tested.

Relaxing visibly, the Prime Minister confessed (amid laughter on all sides) that he was conscious of the shade of Dan Quayle. There followed a short sermon on the importance of education.

Opera faces Arts Council inquiry

By Dalya Alberge

Mary Allen, whose recent appointment as chief executive of the Royal Opera House caused concern

THE Arts Council yesterday announced an external inquiry into the beleaguered Royal Opera House. In stating that it was only focusing on the "relationship" between the council and the house, it added a puzzling twist to a drama that has recently verged on farce.

"Why just the 'relationship'?" asked one observer. "This looks like a whitewash over the way the chief executive was appointed."

Others also wondered why the inquiry had been limited to one aspect of a company dogged by problems. As well as producing an outcry when it received £78 million of lottery cash for its £214 million redevelopment, it has been accused of incompetence in finding venues during the two-year renovation and over its handling of the departure of the chief executive.

Genista McIntosh, who resigned after 18 weeks because of ill-health, was replaced by the Arts Council secretary-general, Mary Allen: the appointment caused concern as the board had bypassed any official interviews. "They are feeling guilty about not advertising the job," one observer remarked.

Raymond Gubbay, the music promoter, welcomed the inquiry: "About 18 months ago, I had an unsatisfactory correspondence with Mary Allen. I will produce copies concerning what was going to happen to the house [during Covent Garden's closure] and its impingement on the commercial world. I don't think she dealt with it in a fair and equitable way.

"There has been an unhealthy relationship. It has not been open. This looked like a put-up job, having this lady in the wings . . . Her relationship gave the appearance of being too close. There may be nothing untoward. But these are people responsible for millions of taxpayers' money. The 'arm's length' principle has not been applied. The people who gave the lottery money are now its recipients."

The inquiry was set up after the Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, asked the Earl of Gowrie, the council chairman, for a briefing on the house. A Heritage Department source expressed surprise at the use of the word "relationship". He said the council had been asked to report on all matters.

House puts voting by swipe card on its shopping list

By Jill Sherman, chief political correspondent

MPs may use swipe cards to vote in the House of Commons as part of a drive to modernise some of its archaic workings. Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, said that she thought MPs should still walk through the division lobbies, but an electronic device could speed up the counting of votes.

Mrs Taylor told a press gallery lunch that the Modernisation Committee, which had met for the first time yesterday, had decided to ask the Clerk of the House and the Serjeant at Arms to examine the Commons voting system.

Under the present voting system, the clerks of the House note MPs' names and inform the tellers, two MPs on each side who count them up. The process can take ten to 15 minutes. Many of the clerks do not recognise many of the new Labour MPs.

Mrs Taylor said: "We cannot rule out electronic voting, but we are not advocating any particular solution. We are saying that there might be some short-term solutions to ease the pressure in the next few weeks or months, but longer term we ought to look at what we do on a permanent basis." Mrs Taylor said she personally believed that there was much advantage in having MPs physically going through the lobbies to vote, because colleagues were able to meet and "ministers can't get off the hook and you can corner people".

"But that doesn't preclude speeding up the process or combining it with perhaps having some kind of swipe card and then being counted as you come out. But we are not making decisions. We are asking other people to provide us with options."

Other archaic conventions which may be vulnerable include the formal way in which MPs address each other in the House, and MPs having to put on a hat if they wish to raise a point of order when a vote is under way.

Mrs Taylor defended the decision to shake up Prime Minister's Question Time, having a half-hour session once a week on Wednesdays instead of two weekly sessions.

"It's been a change for the better," she said. "We're getting more backbenchers in, and we're getting, at least for part of the time, a more productive atmosphere." She said the Modernisation Committee would also consider ways in which the legislative process could be improved.

It was also asking the Clerk of the House to consider redesigning the Commons Order Paper, the document published daily which sets out details of the House's agenda for the day. Mrs Taylor said the review would be to make the meaning of the document — much of which is opaque to the layman — "so that someone who picks it up can have some idea of what it means". The committee might also consider how the parliamentary year should be arranged between sitting months and recesses.

She hoped the committee would produce a report by next month. "We are going to make progress. Things are going to happen on that committee." There was a mood for change in this Parliament and it was in the Government's interests to have a Parliament that worked efficiently.

"If governments aren't held to account, they make more mistakes. It is in this Government's interests to get early warning of problems."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Straw backs curbs on police 'sickness'

Jack Straw is backing measures to prevent police officers facing internal investigation from claiming ill-health and escaping on sickness pensions. Scotland Yard sources say that the Home Secretary promised Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, his support for reform of the pension and discipline system.

Police sources say that he also promised action on other police sickness pensions. In London 65 per cent of all retirements are sickness pensions which are full pensions normally available to officers only after 30 years' service or at the age of 55.

Aitken's £3m secret

Jonathan Aitken admitted in the High Court failing to disclose to fellow directors Saudi Arabian investments of more than £3 million in the troubled breakfast channel TV-am. He said he had given too high a priority to his Arab clients' wishes for confidentiality. Mr Aitken is suing *The Guardian* and television's *World in Action* over allegations in 1995 that, while a minister, he was financially dependent on wealthy Arabs. The hearing continues.

Blunkett eases phase-out

The Government yesterday bowed to pressure to ease the phasing out of the Assisted Places Scheme (David Charter writes). Children who were given a "clear promise" of a subsidised place at independent school up to the age of 13 will be able to stay on, even though the Education Bill proposes ending state assistance at 11. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that the concession would apply to about 300 children.

London mayor watchdog

An elected mayor of London would be given wide-ranging powers to call American-style congressional hearings to investigate controversial issues, covering anything from drug abuse in the capital and the threatened closure of London hospitals to provision of arts and tourism in the city. Nick Raynsford, the Minister for London, said there was a strong case for elected mayors scrutinising areas over which they had no direct powers.

Rethink on Britannia

Ministers are reviewing the previous Government's decision to fund a £60 million replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. Lord Gilbert, Defence Procurement Minister, said: "It's a question of priorities: whether we would rather have a yacht, with the very high running costs that *Britannia* or a successor would have, against other provisions in the public service." He said the Government had received "four or five very interesting proposals".

Clue to cataract cure

The eyes may benefit from hormone replacement therapy, according to research in Spain on women taking oestrogen. The treatment is known to prevent brittle bones, but the new study suggests it also slows the normal process of hardening and clouding of the eye's lens which causes cataracts. Scientists have long suspected that hormones play a part in cataract development because the condition is more common among women.

First inmates board ship

Twenty one offenders yesterday boarded the first prison ship to be used in England and Wales since the Victorian era. They will be joined over the next few days by 29 other low-risk inmates. The prisoners are being guarded by 60 staff on board the vessel, HM prison Weare, undergoing £11 million of improvements. The five-deck ship will eventually house 400 offenders who will be held in better quality cells than those jailed on shore.

Diary, page 22

Revenge prize for artist

A work by the artist R B Kitaj which is an attack on critics whom he blamed for the death of his wife from a brain haemorrhage, has been selected by the Royal Academy as the most distinguished in the Summer Exhibition. The Charles Wollaston prize, worth £25,000 was awarded for *Sandra Three*, which features a composition inspired by Manet's *Execution of Maximilian*, with a grotesque figure facing a firing-squad.

New A-levels delayed

Tougher A-level courses sent to schools only last week were put on hold by the Government yesterday to restart talks on a new qualification which would be the basis for entry to higher education. Baroness Blackstone, the Education and Employment Minister, said the Government wanted to think again about how the sixth-form curriculum could be broadened without sacrificing academic rigour. The aim was to produce a single certificate for university entry.

Superministry born

The merger of the Transport and Environment Departments into a "superministry" was announced by John Prescott. The move is designed to put environmental issues at the forefront of government policy. The merger prompted Sir Patrick Brown, the Permanent Secretary at the Transport Department, to announce his retirement. Sir Patrick steered through privatisations of the railways and the water industry under the Tories.

Tribute to explorer

More than 50 admirers and descendants toured London paying tribute to Sir John Franklin, Britain's greatest Arctic explorer, on the 150th anniversary of his death on an expedition from which none of his officers or men returned. Franklin led a series of voyages to the Arctic in the first half of the 19th century, mapping hundreds of miles of coastline, completing the map of Canada and determining the shape of the North American continent.

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Tory fight

Continued from page 1

not heal the rift between the Tory party and the public.

Mr Clarke, who spent most of yesterday talking to MPs who backed Mr Howard and Mr Lilley in the first round in the hope of bringing them over to his cause, said: "This thing must not be settled by a whole lot of deals on jobs," he said. "The voluntary party is fed up, sick to the teeth, with the behaviour of the parliamentary party before the election."

The leadership bids must be settled openly, he said. "I don't think that sort of smoke-filled room politics is called for," he declared. "I think many people in the parliamentary party have behaved badly. They have been too bothered by internecine squabbling. The parliamentary party should have a look at what the public thinks of us."

The winner of the second ballot should prove he can unify the party, he continued. "It is no good having deals done by different people on the Right. I have to demonstrate I can draw support from every section of the party." He promised that the Right would be fully represented in his Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Clarke, Mr Hague and Mr Redwood all announced new supporters yesterday as they scrambled for the 47 votes that went to Mr Howard and Mr Lilley. Mr Hague's team was hoping that the endorsement from Mr Lilley and Mr Howard would help to push its man on to victory, but Mr Clarke's supporters were adamant that they could beat Mr Hague in a final run-off.

The board of secrets

Monopoly

Continued from page 1

gade Intelligence Officer for the SAS in 1944, told *The Times* how he was captured by a German paratroop battalion shortly after landing in France in August 1944 and made four escape attempts before being released in the November.

"I had two silk maps sewn into my battledress which the German guards never found. When I was exchanged in November, I still had the maps, a compass and a saw blade with me."

Professor Foot recalled how on one escape he evaded capture: "A soldier asked what we were doing. I thought we had had it, but a prisoner I was with launched into a tirade in a perfect upper-class Berlin accent, demanding to know how [he] dared speak to an officer in such an off-hand way. The soldier saluted and we were on our way."

Waddingtons no longer make Monopoly: it sold the game to the American toy firm Hasbro in 1994, with Cluedo and Subbuteo.

EU finds BSE claim flawed

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

BRITAIN'S attempt to win a softening of the European ban on its worldwide beef exports ran into trouble yesterday when the EU's scientific committee said it was not satisfied by its application for the exemption of cattle from herds deemed to be free of "mad cow" disease.

The committee, which is a key part of the EU's decision-making machinery on beef, said it had found five deficiencies in the request by the Ministry of Agriculture last February for the exemption of "BSE-free" herds from the ban, imposed 15 months ago.

The main concern lay in uncertainty over methods used to identify and trace animals. There were also doubts about measures to prevent contamination and the quality of Britain's veterinary controls. The committee's statement indicated that it would approve the request if the Government remedied the problems which it had found.

The decision was not a surprise because the EU authorities have raised repeated questions over the reliability of controls on British cattle. Herds from Northern Ireland, where cattle have been subjected to a tighter system of identification, are expected to benefit first from a relaxation of the export embargo.

At the same time, the committee yesterday gave a warning to Germany, France, Sweden and Spain that it would start court proceedings against them within a month for their alleged failure to obey EU rules on eliminating the risk of BSE in animal feed.

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French 'dig themselves out of a hole' before cross-Channel relations take turn for the worse

France releases Briton seized for army service

By Stephen Farrell in Lille and Adrian Lee

FRENCH authorities yesterday released a Briton who had been seized at the Folkestone end of the Channel Tunnel for allegedly dodging his French military service. His MP said it amounted to kidnap.

Henry Tuson, 23, who has dual nationality, was said to have failed an army medical and was discharged from barracks in Lille, northern France. His release followed day-long discussions between the Foreign Office and the French Embassy in London.

Mr Tuson, a worker for Eurotunnel, was stopped by officials in the French control zone on the English side of the Channel on Tuesday as he was travelling to France for a business meeting. He was transported to Lille under armed guard.

It is believed he was released on a technicality to avoid a diplomatic row, although the French denied having blundered. A source at the Foreign Office said: "The French have managed to dig themselves out of a hole."

Laurent Lemarchand, a spokesman at the French Embassy, said last night: "Mr Tuson was discharged from the army at 5pm French time and taken to Lille station, where he is making his way home. His exemption papers were received by the relevant authorities via the British Consulate in Lille." Mr Tuson was travelling home with his family.

M Lemarchand said Mr Tuson had only himself to blame for his predicament. He insisted that he had never been under arrest and that would have been released in due course because his dual nationality meant he was exempt from national service. He said French officials had written twice to Mr Tuson, who was born in France with a French mother and English father, warning him that he was eligible for national service, which is still compulsory in France.

Tuson: he was taken to Lille under armed guard

"As a French citizen he has his duties. For us, he is French and nobody is supposed to ignore the law. He could have been more careful and this would have been avoided. This action was not against a British citizen but a Frenchman who had responsibilities to his country. It is not as if French police will be parachuting into the heart of Britain to kidnap its citizens."

M Lemarchand said there had been two or three other cases involving dual nationals that had also been resolved amicably. However, he could give no guarantee there would not be a repeat, although the Foreign Office source said: "I would have thought the French would have learnt from this experience."

Meanwhile, hundreds of young men were continuing to fulfil their military service at the imposing barracks where Mr Tuson spent just over 24 hours.

Mr Tuson, who is bilingual and translates technical documents, has worked at the tunnel site since it was opened. He was previously employed by Transmanche-Link, the tunnel builders. He has an office on the main site in Folkestone, where he is a part of the technical department. He makes two or three trips to France a week in his own car.

Born in Dunkirk, Mr Tuson lives with his parents, John and Brigitte, in Herne Bay, Kent. Yesterday they travelled to La Citadelle military complex in Lille, HQ of the 43rd Régiment Infantrie, to secure his release.

Mr Tuson said: "This boy has only lived in France for the first three months of his life. There has never been any suggestion in the past that he should have done military service in France just because he was born there all those years ago. As far as Henry is concerned he's English and proud of it." Mrs Tuson, 48, works as a personal assistant to a Eurotunnel director.

The incident shocked workers at the tunnel terminal. "We have never had anything like this happen before," said Anne Leva, who works in Eurotunnel's customer relations office. "As far as we are concerned both terminals are one site with a bit of water in between. People are always coming and going through the tunnel."

A colleague at Eurotunnel said: "Henry is a quiet man who does not socialise much at work, or join any of the sports teams."

Roger Gale, Mr Tuson's MP, described his seizure as "kidnap". "The whole situation is quite ridiculous. It is French bureaucracy gone completely mad. The French equivalent of Mr Plod has blundered in and caused an international incident."

Mr Gale, Tory MP for Thanet North, said the authorities must review the question of French jurisdiction in England. "It was never intended to allow the French police to arrest a British subject on British soil and effectively kidnap him. I regard it as outrageous."

John and Brigitte Tuson, who travelled to France yesterday to collect their son. Mr Tuson said: "As far as Henry is concerned he's English and proud of it"

Tongue-tied British reject cross-channel scholarships

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

BRITISH students have shunned a prestige exchange scheme set up by John Major and Jacques Chirac as a symbol of Anglo-French relations.

While French postgraduates speaking fluent English have flocked to the *Entente Cordiale* Scholarships, only a handful of their British peers seem willing or able to cross the Channel.

Nearly two years after Mr Major and M Chirac rounded off a successful summit meeting by announcing the scheme, the French Ambassador is having to re-launch it at a reception in London next week. Jean Gueguinou has asked David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, and leading vice-chancellors to help revive the scholarships in Britain.

The scholarships were intended to enable up to 40 postgraduates from each country to study for a year at universities on the other side of the Channel to enhance their understanding of each others' country.

Just five British places were claimed in the first year compared to 25 from France. For scholarships this autumn, 20 French students were chosen from nearly 400 applicants and 12 British students from just 32.

The British response falls short of the ambitious hopes expressed for the scheme at its launch in October 1995. In a joint statement Mr Major and M Chirac said: "Young people in our two countries represent our shared future.

"The more they can learn about their near neighbour as they advance their education, the more they can contribute to the enlightened partnership and growing opportunities which we are now developing in an enlarged Europe."

Edwige Girardin, education attache at the French Embassy, said: "It has been much more popular in France than Britain and we are trying to relaunch it here. We are disappointed because we feel we would like students in both countries to benefit. We have done exactly the same amount of publicity as our colleagues in the British Council in Paris.".

Mme Girardin believes the main obstacle to British participation is the lack of foreign language training in this country.

"We find excellent students but they just don't speak the language," she said. "It is obvious that any student in France will speak English but it is not obvious that any student in England will speak French."

The low British interest in the first year was blamed on the late launch of the scheme and lack of publicity. Some academics believe the scheme was advertised too late again this year to attract much interest.

But Mme Girardin added: "We have more or less the same amount of money on both sides of the Channel but, basically, British students don't seem to be interested in going to study in France"

Sir Christopher Mallaby, Britain's former ambassador to France who founded the scholarship scheme, said it had now been opened up to holders of first class degrees as well as masters to encourage interest.

He said the low response in the first year was due to the late launch of the scheme. "In the second year the number has gone up considerably but still needs to go more," he said. "It is true we are not doing as well on the UK side but I am confident we can overcome that."

He said he devised the scheme to help overcome the historic feelings of rivalry between Britain and France. "I hope it will make a small dent in the prejudice that does exist at the moment," he said.

Unwilling young men have been summoned to arms for 200 years

From Susan Bell in Paris

FRANCE has used military conscription to fill the ranks of its armed forces with raw, and often unwilling, recruits since the Revolution. President Chirac announced last year that this unpopular tradition would be phased out by 2002 in favour of a force made up of volunteers and professionals.

National service will not be abolished, but a new system will be developed in which those who do not volunteer for military service will be allowed to perform other types of civic service.

Of the 500,000 people who make up the armed Services, about 40 per cent are conscripts. Under the present law, all French men must perform ten months of military service, although many work in developing countries or inner-city areas and others obtain long deferrals.

The system is criticised as being open to widespread abuse, with the sons of the wealthy often able to avoid military service if their families have the right connections and are able to pull the necessary strings.

Conscription is deeply unpopular with the electorate with 85 per cent preferring France to opt for a professional army along American or British lines.

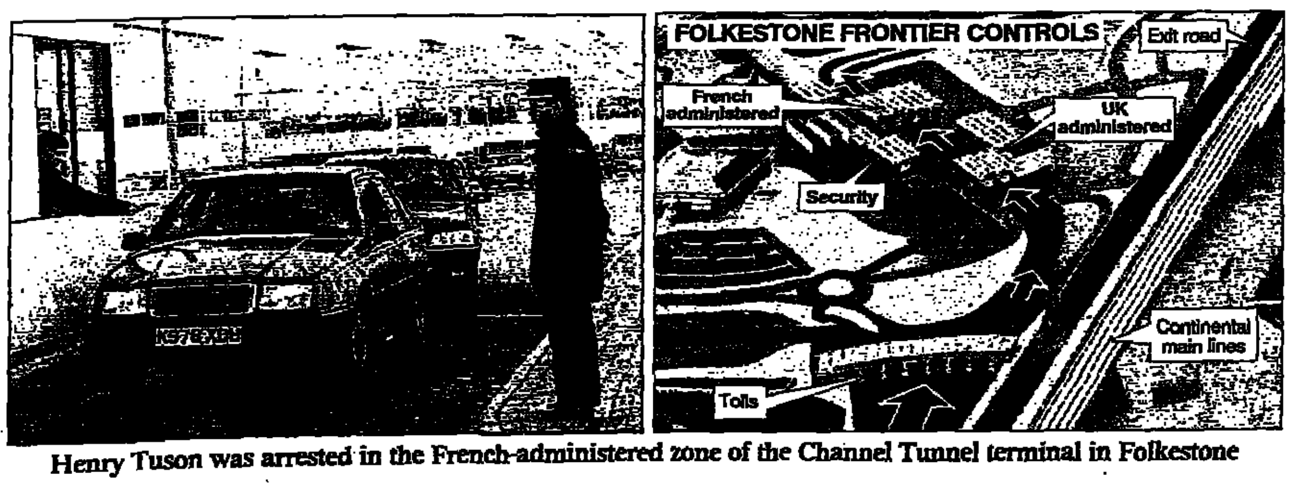
The elite corps of the French Army is the Foreign Legion, currently seeing action in Brazzaville, in the former French colony of the Republic of Congo, where they are helping to evacuate foreigners. The legion is made up of volunteers from overseas.

Although all male French citizens are eligible for national service, the Council of Europe Convention of 1963 allows an exemption for anyone who can prove that they lived abroad between the ages of 18 and 21. However, if he wished to be exempted, Henry Tuson was legally obliged to apply to the Consulate General in London. Despite twice receiving his draft papers by registered post in 1993, he failed to make such an application.

"This is a situation which should not have arisen," Laurent Lemarchand, an embassy spokesman, said. "It could have been avoided by this young gentleman if he had carried out his legal responsibility to France and completed the paperwork. It was very straightforward and simple and could have avoided this situation."

Mr Tuson's arrest by the French authorities was made possible by the Channel Tunnel Treaty, signed in 1987 by Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand. Under the agreement, French authorities are granted jurisdiction over a small area in the Folkestone terminal and the British have power over a similar section of the terminal near Calais. The agreement was reached in an attempt to control drug smuggling and international terrorism.

French meddling, page 19



Henry Tuson was arrested in the French-administered zone of the Channel Tunnel terminal in Folkestone

A corner of England forever France

By Adrian Lee

THE tricolour and the word *passeports* on two ugly booths in Folkestone mark a few square feet of England that is forever France.

It was here that Henry Tuson was arrested as he began one of his regular business trips to France for his employers, Eurotunnel.

Under the *Sangatte Protocol* of 1991, signed by Kenneth Baker, then Home Secretary, and Philippe Marchand, his French counterpart, the French were granted jurisdiction in this tiny patch of Britain. It is known as the French control zone.

Although Britain retains sovereignty over the land, French officials and police

accord is not without its quirks. Woe betide any Briton who offends a French official in the control zone. He or she may be deemed to have committed *outrage* and taken to France for punishment.

Spitting at the feet of an immigration officer, for example, might be considered *outrage*. But a more serious crime, such as punching the official, would be covered by British law.

The control zone extends just a few square feet around the passport booths but includes a rest area and an office. The booths are manned by a dozen or so officials who travel daily from France. French police must leave their guns at home.

The Home Office, responsible for agreeing the dimensions of the control

details. Kent police said it did not extend into the platform area or the tunnel mouth.

A similar British control zone exists in Calais, where Kent police have made a number of arrests.

The booths are used to speed travellers. Thanks to the French presence, Eurotunnel boasts that its passengers can travel from the M20 to the A16 autoroute, on the other side of the Channel, in an hour.

Having shown their passports to the French officials in Folkestone, there is no need to stop again when they disembark.

Until now, the system has worked well, although the French are known to be more zealous than their British counterparts, a few yards away, and queues

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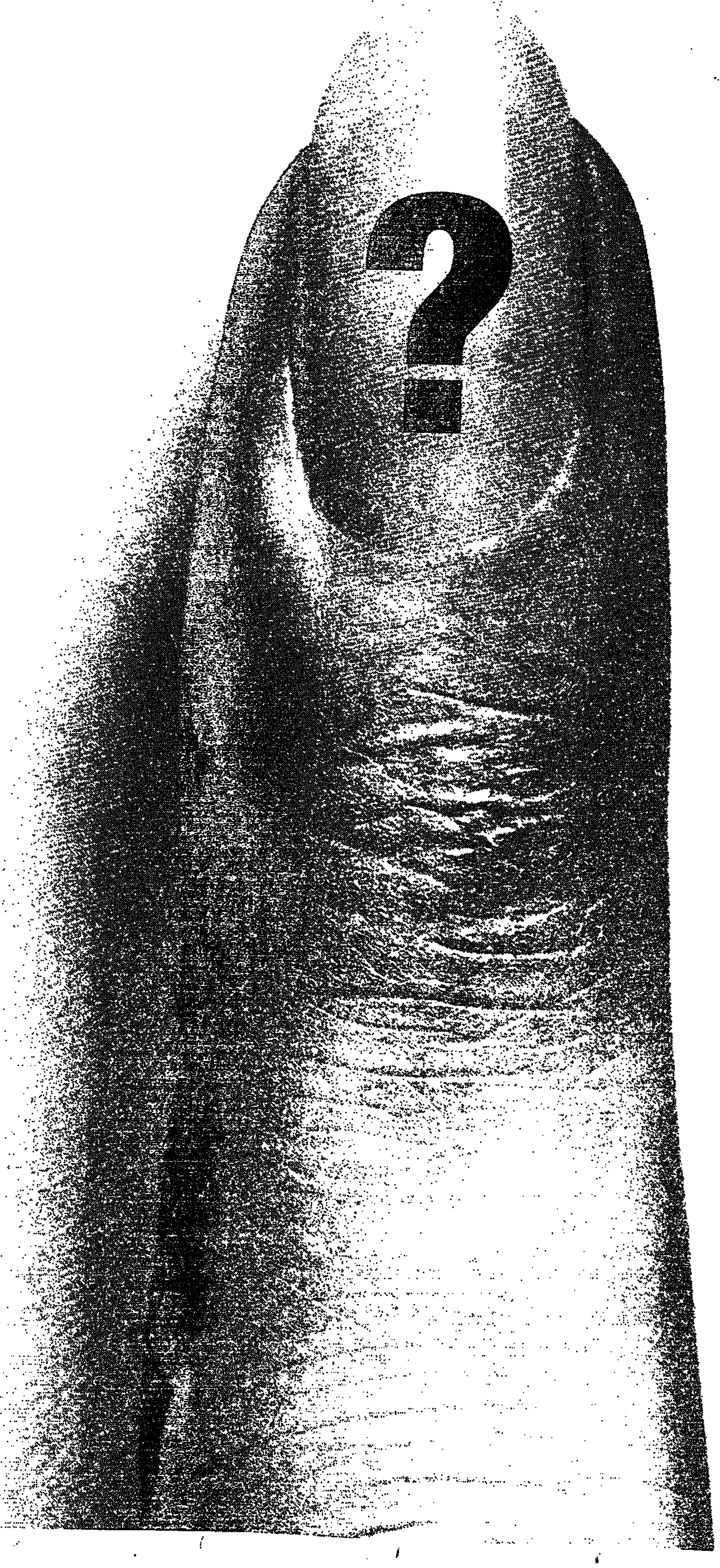

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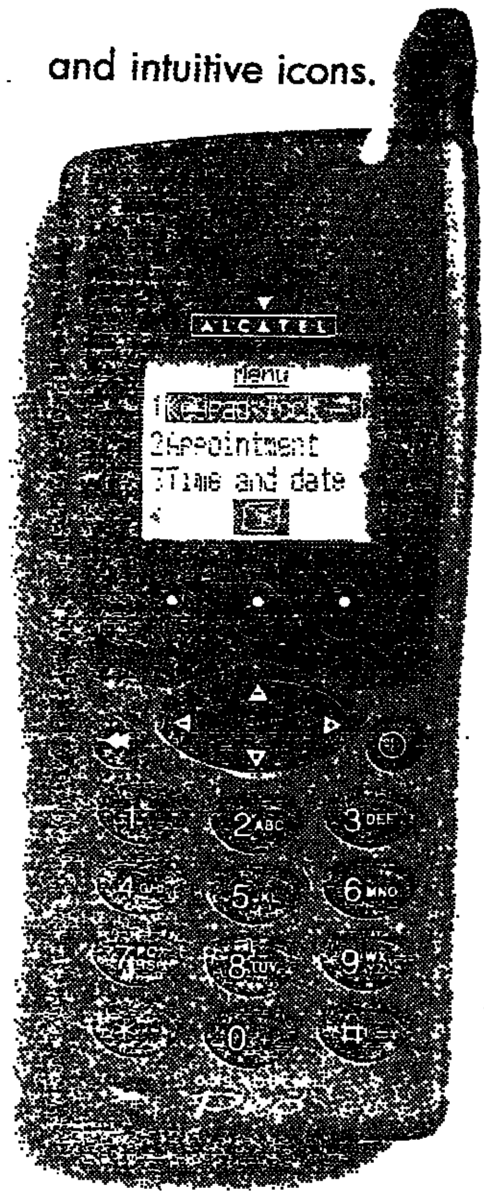

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Why boys have to learn what comes naturally to girls

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

FEMALE intuition is more than just girl talk. Scientists say it is the simple truth: women really are better at detecting nuances and reading social situations.

Men can be taught to be equally skilful at dealing with other people, but to women it comes naturally and the reason lies in their genes. The gene responsible may explain why men are vulnerable to disorders such as autism, which is an extreme form of the inability to put oneself in somebody else's place.

The conclusions come from a study of girls with a genetic abnormality called Turner syndrome, which affects one in 2,500. They are small in stature and infertile and tend to have problems at school, although they are of normal intelligence. Their behaviour is disruptive, they are demanding, easily upset and hard to reason with.

The cause of the syndrome is well known: instead of having the two X chromosomes of normal girls, Turner syndrome sufferers have one.

Professor David Skuse of the Institute of Child Health in London has investigated a group of 80 Turner syndrome girls, collaborating with scientists from the Wessex Regional Genetics Laboratory in Salisbury and the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge.

The team report in *Nature* that they were able to identify in each case whether the girls had inherited their single X chromosome from their mother or their father. In 55 girls it came from the mother, and in 25 from the father.

They then compared the two groups. There were no significant differences in terms of appearance, but they found that those with paternally derived X chromosomes were better adjusted socially and had fewer problems getting on with people and fitting in at school. The girls who had inherited their single X chromosome from their mothers, however, were social misfits.

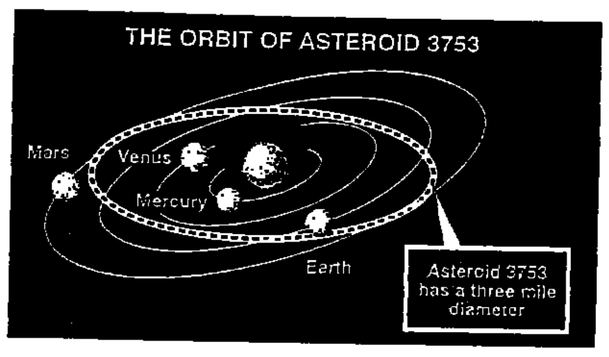
The team then applied the same tests to groups of normal boys and girls. They found that the same differences existed between girls and boys as between the two groups of Turner syndrome girls. Boys have a single X chromosome, which they inherit from their mother — just like the Turner syndrome girls with the serious sociability problems.

The team concludes that difficulties in relating to other people are linked to a gene on the X chromosome that is "imprinted", that is, has different effects depending on whether it is inherited from a father or a mother. The irony is that while women have an "active" version, making them intuitive and understanding, they cannot pass it on to their children. In men the gene is inactive, yet they can pass it on to their daughters, in whom it is active.

The discovery has enormous implications. "It means that the ability to suss out a situation by nuance, or by intuition, has a genetic orgin," Professor Skuse says. "It is nothing to do with the hormones, or with the way boys and girls are brought up. Men are not doomed. They can pick up social skills. These skills can be taught, but this needs to be part of a boy's education, whereas it comes naturally to a girl."

Why evolution should have arranged things thus remains a puzzle, but Professor Skuse sees boys as a kind of "blank slate" on to which experiences can be imposed. "If you want to socialise boys into becoming part of a hunting party, army or football team, it helps to start with a blank slate, on which a dominant male can impose his mores.

"So it could have been an advantage to be socially undeveloped up to adolescence. You wouldn't find many women prepared to face the guns at Gallipoli, but there were plenty of men prepared to do it. Maybe if you are going out to kill people, less emphathy is an advantage."


THE ORBIT OF ASTEROID 3753
Mars
Venus
Mercury
Earth
Asteroid 3753 has a three mile diameter

Secret companion plays tag with Earth

By Nigel Hawkes

THE Earth has a ghostly companion on its journey around the Sun. We seldom see it and never come near it but an asteroid called 3753 plays tag with us, sidling up and slipping away.

It occupies the same orbit as Earth and its average distance from the Sun is virtually the same as ours. But its orbit is not in the same plane, and a collision appears very unlikely.

The asteroid, which is three miles across, was identified in 1986 but nobody realised that it was a kind of twin to Earth. In *Nature* magazine, two astronomers from York University in Ontario and one from the University of Turku in Finland reveal its secrets.

The asteroid's orbit is highly eccentric; at present it is orbiting slightly faster than Earth, so it is slowly catching us up. As it approaches Earth from an orbit slightly inside ours, the gravitational attraction accelerates it slightly. This increases the asteroid's orbit, moving it outside Earth's orbit. Carl Murray of Queen Mary and Westfield College says.

This makes it slightly slower than Earth, so we move away from it. Eventually, we lap it, and approach it from the other direction. This time gravitational attraction slows it down, moves it back into a tighter orbit and it moves away again.

Thus Earth and 3753 conduct a kind of stately dance, in which we are protected from impact because we share an orbit. The closest approach happens once every 385 years, when the asteroid comes within one tenth of an astronomical unit — or 40 times the distance between Earth and Moon. The last close approach took place in 1900, but nobody noticed: the asteroid is barely visible. The next will be in 2285.

DAVE KENDALL

Singing his praises: the Simply Red singer Mick Hucknall yesterday after receiving an honorary degree for his contribution to life in Manchester. Hucknall, who was born in the city, helped to organise fundraising after the IRA bombing last year. The degree was from University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology

Conman fleeces Derby punters

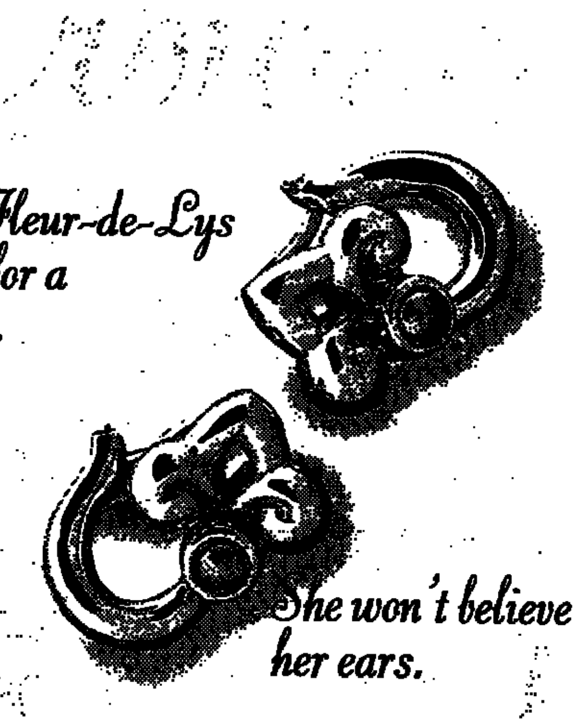
By Stewart Tendler
Crime correspondent

A BOGUS bookmaker fled with £40,000 after setting up a pitch at the Derby. He offered such generous odds on the red-hot favourite, Entrepreneur, that big bookies at the course laid off some of their bets with him.

In the run-up to the race at Epsom on Saturday the fraudster, calling himself John Batten and trading as Lucan, had a long queue of punters eager to back Entrepreneur at odds of 7-4. The horse was odds-on with most bookies. Many punters also placed bets on other horses, including the eventual winner, Benny the Dip, who finished at 11-1.

By the time the race was over, Lucan had — like his titled namesake — disappeared. He had set up on a public area in the centre of the course, known as the Hill, which is difficult to regulate because of the crowds on Derby Day. He showed a course official a fake magistrates' licence and was given a bookmaker's badge for £75. Officials now realise that the fake licence did not have enough digits on it.

Stephen Wallis, racecourse manager of Epsom, said: "This guy seems to have been an old-fashioned conman. He was seen stuffing money into his pockets during the Derby, after which he disappeared. We have received 79 complaints so far, which I suspect is the tip of the iceberg."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Driving rain and intemperate drivers put a spoke in the wheel of National Bike to Work Day

Our man on the Moulton rides the trails of two cities

Arthur Leathley finds his enthusiasm dampened after going out and about in Paris and London

France, home to the world's most famous cycle race, has an international reputation for looking after cyclists that shames Britain, to the fury of the two-wheeled lobby. As National Bike Week attempted to boost Britain's bicycling numbers beyond the six million regulars, I took to the streets of London and Paris to compare their treatment of the cycling minority.

My mission looked fine on paper. A specially delivered collapsible bicycle would combine with the latest feat of British transport engineering, the Channel Tunnel, and its Eurostar train service to enable me to flit between meetings in the two capitals. But the weather conspired with road hogs to produce a two-day trail that should never be attempted by the chic, image-conscious or sane.

My all-purpose bicycle, loaned by the RAC, appeared to be the answer to the growing trend of barring bikes from trains. But after dismantling the gleaming machine and stowing away the halves into a pair of bulky, 4ft-long "body bags", the concept of a portable bike seemed a little less convincing.

After the comfort of air-conditioned train travel, I paid the price of smugness as I arrived at Gare du Nord station to be engulfed by the sweltering heat of Paris in June.

The city boasts three times as much in cycle lanes as London does, although British ministers have begun a campaign to bring their capital into line with rival cities across Europe. Heading precariously up the six-lane Boulevard de Magenta, packed with aspiring Grand Prix drivers, I was relieved by the sight of a clear cycle lane. But why were no cyclists using it?

The reason became clear when a Peugeot 405 screeched to a halt outside a *tabac*, blocking the cycle lane and forcing me to swerve in front of a gesticulating coach driver. Only the rapid response of the Moulton bicycle offered the flexibility to manoeuvre the packed lanes of Paris.

As cycle lanes no longer seemed to offer sanctuary from the notorious traffic system, I veered into the back streets to find a circuitous but safer route before returning to the calm of the Eurostar and the journey back to London.

Yesterday, refreshed by overnight sleep, I took to the streets of London to play my small part in National Bike to Work Day. The environmental initiative is supported by many local authorities and green groups, who have organised events including the official opening of cycle paths, cycling fun days and festivals.

Although the bike bags enabled me to travel with a cycle on rush-hour trains from which the machines are normally barred, their bulkiness does little to win the affection of fellow commuters.

After the exhausting heat of Paris came the unseasonal torrential rain of London, a climatic quirk that drowned the best-laid plans of fair-weather cyclists.

As I attempted to avoid the flooded kerbsides on roads from London's Liverpool Street station, few drivers offered enough clearance to allow for sudden wobbles.

London's motorists certainly offer cyclists more respect than do their Parisien counterparts. However, many clearly believe that a 6in gap between their wing-mirror and a cyclist's elbow allows plenty of room for an emergency manoeuvre.

In the absence of cycle lanes, this leaves a cyclist even more vulnerable than in Paris. Buses, lorries and even cars delight in hugging the kerb, forcing cyclists to weave a ludicrous route between vehicles.

Is cycling to work the answer to our congestion and health problems? If you live in a honey-stoned Cotswold cottage and run an antiques business at the other end of the village, take to the saddle. If you are part of the frenzied world that everyone else inhabits, hail a cab.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Driving rain: a cyclist ignores warnings and battles the elements in London

Wet weather pours cold water on cycle push

By Arthur Leathley, transport correspondent

FLASH floods and warnings that cyclists should leave their machines at home threw a spoke into the wheels of National Bike to Work Day yesterday.

Organisers had hoped that the week's sunshine would inspire many to cycle to work but thundery showers overnight left many roads dangerous and forced thousands to abandon plans to take to the saddle.

The sudden downpour created slippery conditions, prompting the AA to say: "It is particularly hazardous to cyclists and motorbikes. We are advising them to leave their bikes at home."

Even if conditions deterred the fair-weather riders, organisers remained optimistic of an increase on the one million regular cycle commuters. Marion Gourlay, co-ordinator of National Bike Week, said that employers had responded better than before. Free breakfasts were offered by many companies to staff who had cycled in.

"The main thing is that National Bike Week has attracted many more events than in past years and increased employers' awareness of cycling issues and the needs of staff," she said.

More than 1,200 events had been organised, including a rally of 5,000 cyclists in Bristol last weekend, compared to 800 events last year.

A spokesman for the RAC, which has launched its own campaign to encourage more cycling, said: "I suspect a lot of people have not used their bikes. Our research shows that the weather is the biggest deciding factor in whether bicycles are used. We are very keen for people to use their bikes — but I think it is asking a lot of them today."

Gavin Strang, the Minister of Transport, offered tea and toast to cyclists who rode to the Department of Transport in London, but heavy rain forced the event indoors. "Cycling is a key element of a truly integrated transport strategy. I hope all employers will take steps to improve facilities for cyclists at the workplace," Mr Strang said.

The minister did not ride to work himself, despite the ministry providing facilities for cyclists. "Unfortunately, he has to deal with ministerial red boxes and he cannot carry them on a bike," a spokesman said.

The day was organised by the Cyclists' Touring Club and the ministry as part of National Bike Week and the month-long Don't Choke Britain campaign. National Bike Week, launched by the Cyclists' Touring Club in 1923, has helped double cycle ownership over the past decade. However, the number of miles cycled in Britain now is only about one sixth of the total in the immediate post-war years.

Judge takes pity on rejected husband with money to burn

A JILTED husband who said he had burnt £125,000 of savings rather than share it with his former wife was spared a jail sentence yesterday. Raymond Orton, 62, was "not in his right mind" when he threw the cash onto a bonfire in his back garden, a judge ruled.

Orton's former wife, Brenda, 61, had asked for him to be jailed for breaching a legal undertaking not to touch their savings. But Judge Hutton said that, with no evidence available to contradict his story that the money had been burnt, he was forced to accept it was true. "At the time he disposed of this money, presumably by burning it, he was not in his right mind. It would be inappropriate to impose punishment for the contempt of court," the judge said at Gloucester County Court.

Orton, a factory worker, burnt £100,000 from a joint savings account and £25,000 from the sale of shares. The court was told that the couple still had savings left and it was likely that most, if not all, would go to Mrs Orton.

Orton told the court earlier that the money had been saved for their retirement. When his wife left him after 41 years of marriage he became depressed. He made an unsuccessful suicide attempt and later drew the money and threw it on the bonfire.

Orton, of Birmingham, admitted breaching an injunction ordering him not to touch joint assets until his wife's share had been decided. The judge made a costs order against him but ruled it should not be settled until after a hearing to decide the division of assets.

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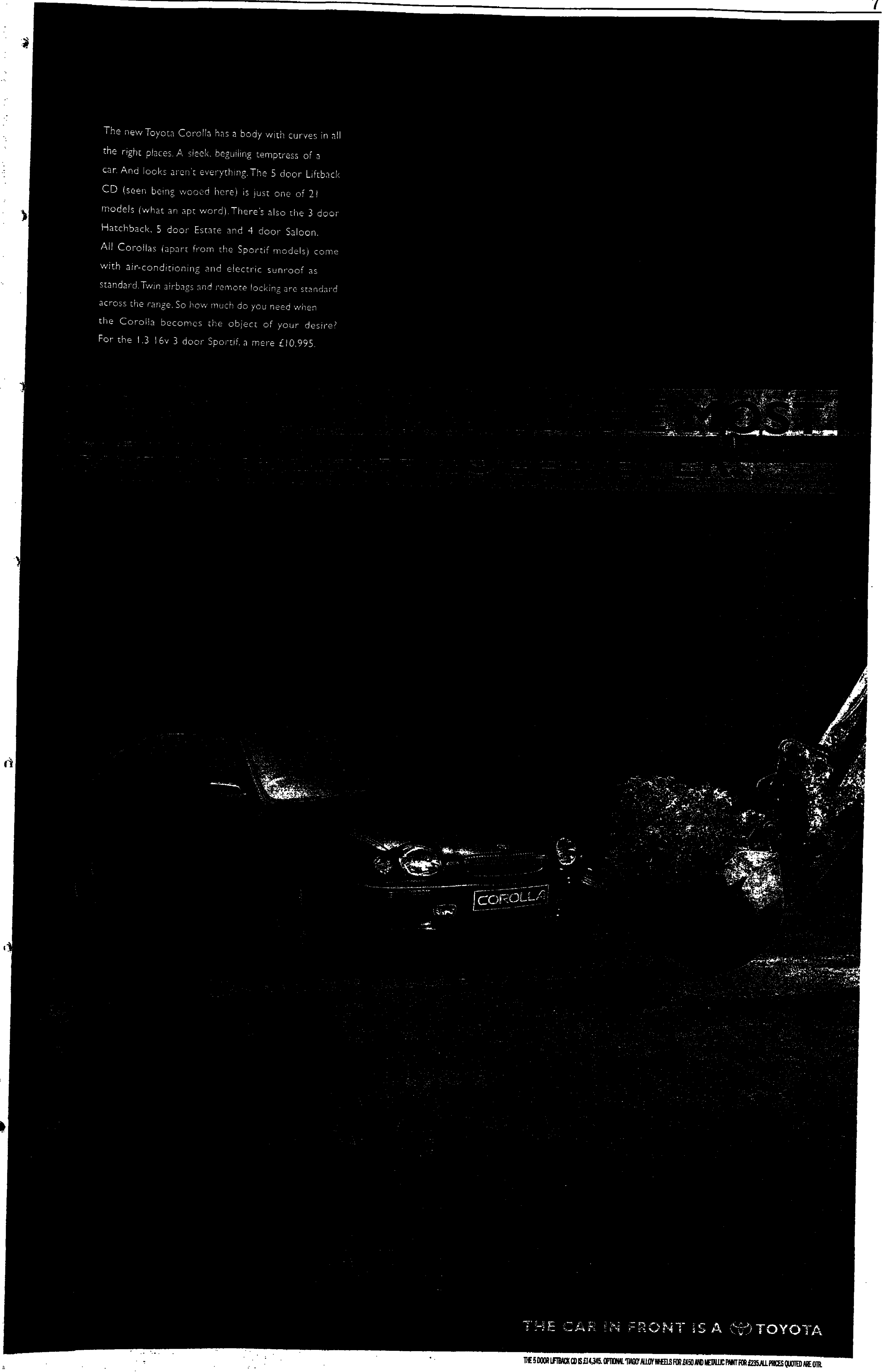


The new Toyota Corolla has a body with curves in all the right places. A sleek, beguiling temptress of a car. And looks aren't everything. The 5 door Liftback CD (seen being wooed here) is just one of 21 models (what an apt word). There's also the 3 door Hatchback, 5 door Estate and 4 door Saloon. All Corollas (apart from the Sportif models) come with air-conditioning and electric sunroof as standard. Twin airbags and remote locking are standard across the range. So how much do you need when the Corolla becomes the object of your desire? For the 1.3 16v 3 door Sportif, a mere £10,995.

THE 5 DOOR LIFTBACK CD IS £14,345. OPTIONAL 'TIAGO' ALLOY WHEELS FOR £450 AND METALLIC PAINT FOR £235. ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE OTR.

Drivers urged to plant trees to beat pollution

Hill: cars such as his emit tonnes of carbon

■ The motor industry believes it can avoid ever higher fuel taxes and buy breathing space to develop low-pollution technology, Nick Nuttall reports

MILLIONS of motorists across Britain, Europe and the United States are to be encouraged to plant trees to combat global warming — and as an alternative to punitive taxes aimed at cutting car use.

International motoring organisations believe that planting trees to absorb emissions of carbon gases offers a cheaper and more effective solution than ever-higher fuel taxes. The governing body of Formula One is launching a pilot scheme at the Hockenheim grand prix in Germany next month to spend $55,000 (£33,000) planting trees in a community forest in Mexico.

Scientists at Edinburgh University have calculated that the cars of Formula One drivers such as Damon Hill emit 330 tonnes of carbon a year during testing and racing. Manufacturing the cars and tyres produces 440 tonnes of carbon, while transporting them to races emits 4,730 tonnes.

Richard Tipper of the university's institute of ecology and resource management said yesterday that the number of trees to be planted in Mexico — 25,000 a year — was enough to offset the sport's emissions.

The trees are to be planted by the Fèdèration International de l'Automobile (FIA), which also represents the AA and RAC. The scheme is backed by the Mexican Government and an independent bank and endorsed by the US, which believes this kind of project, known as joint implementation, is a less painful way of tackling global warming. It involves industries responsible for pollution in the developed world paying for clean-up schemes in the developing world.

David Ward, general secretary of the FIA, said yesterday that it had set up a fund to pay for the cost of the scheme: "We are paying for the costs of this to cover emissions from Formula One. But what we are hoping, and this is the really ambitious idea, is to get motorists to offset their own emissions by contributing to the fund. Both the AA and RAC are considering it."

Drivers can also help out closer to home. An average car in Britain and Europe emits around a tonne of carbon a year. To offset this, a motorist would need to pay around £10 a year to plant trees.

Supporters argue this makes far more economic sense than levying extra taxes on fuel, which, to achieve the same reduction in carbon pollution, would cost drivers in Britain £95 a year.

"If motorists in large numbers plant trees, then maybe they can turn round to finance ministers such as Gordon Brown and begin questioning why so much is being taken in tax," Mr Ward said. He added that they fully supported moves by governments, aimed at meeting international agreements on curbing carbon pollution, to restrict emissions from cars, develop lighter, more fuel-efficient vehicles, boost public transport and alter the planning system. But he said that, given the growth in the numbers of cars worldwide, it was unlikely that such measures would make a significant contribution for up to 50 years.

In comparison, "carbon sequestration schemes" such as tree-planting offered a cheap alternative while less-polluting fuel cells, electric cars and hybrid vehicles were developed.

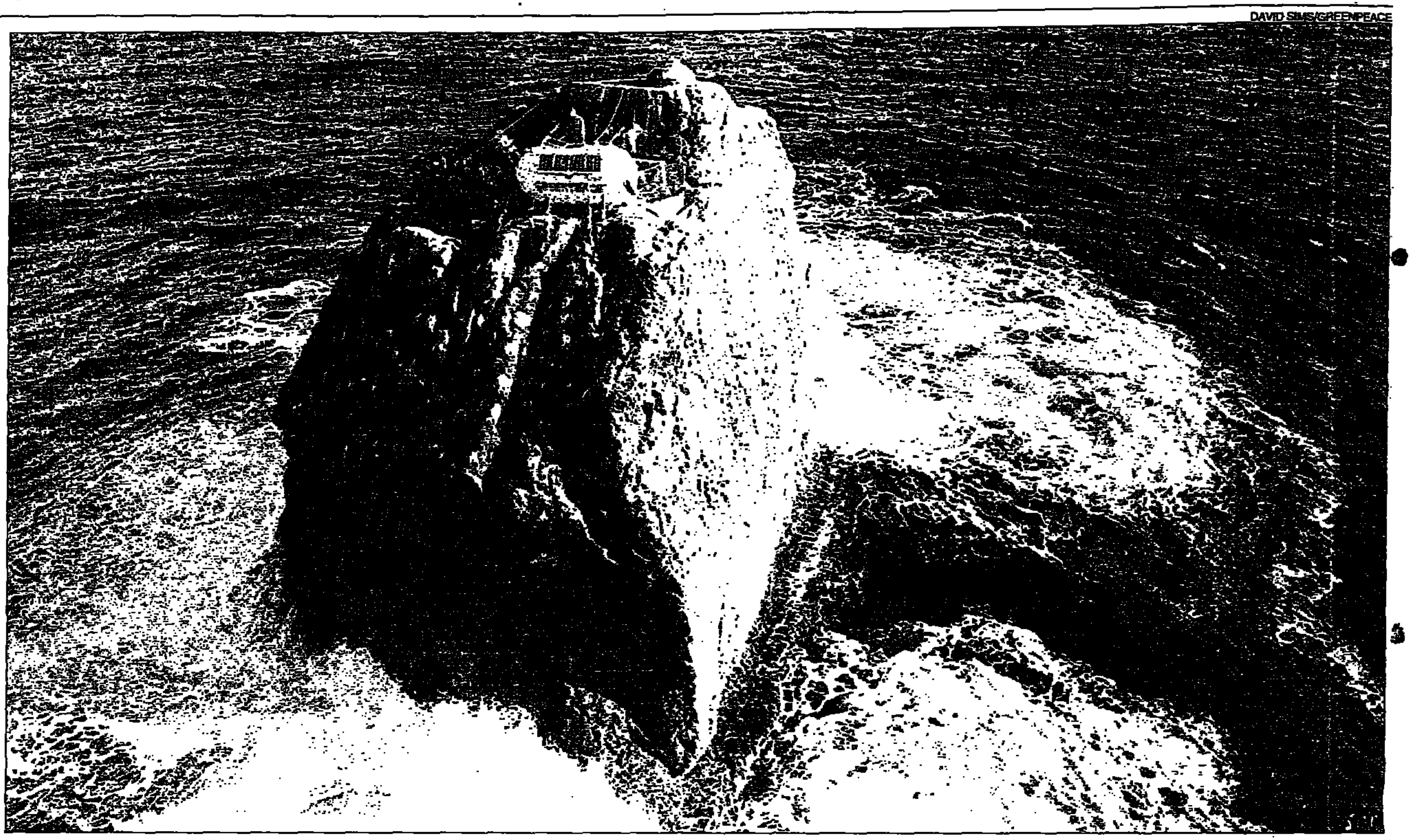
Dr Tipper said the world was producing six billion tonnes of carbon annually from burning fossil fuels. He said that an estimated 40 to 100 billion tonnes of carbon could be absorbed by planting new forests, the equivalent of up to 16 years of carbon pollution at current levels.

Carbon pollution from transport accounts for around 13 per cent of emissions in the European Union. Mr Ward said carbon sequestration offered a breathing space of five decades.

However, critics fear governments and power-generation, car and other companies will use such schemes to postpone the costly development of anti-pollution technologies and the changes in lifestyle needed to curb the burning of fossil fuels.

Stay as long as you like, activists on Rockall told

By Shirley English



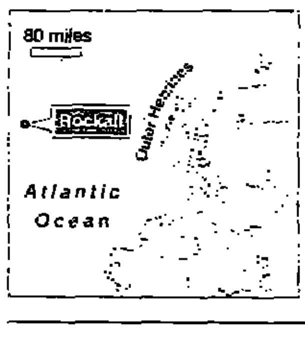
DAVID SIMS/GREENPEACE

Between a rock and a hard place: the Greenpeace activists' survival capsule on Rockall has high-tech computing and communications equipment but no lavatory facilities

GREENPEACE activists have set up home on Rockall, the barren rocky stack 289 miles off northwest Scotland, and say they will not leave until the Government promises to stop oil exploration in the Atlantic.

Two men and a woman arrived by helicopter on Tuesday night and promised to stay indefinitely in a 12ft by 6ft survival capsule, which was clamped to a ledge with steel pins. "We have asked the Government to stop oil exploration in the Atlantic Frontier region and when they do they can have their rock back," a Greenpeace spokesman said.

The Government, however, was unconcerned, and rather puzzled, by the protest. A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "Rockall is part of the UK. My understanding is that people are free to move around the UK as they wish. They can stay there as long as they like." The Department of Trade and Industry was similarly unruffled. "Anyone can stay on Rockall — if they really want to," a spokesman said.



The adventurer Tom McClean, who spent 40 days there in 1985 to raise money for charity, said: "I can't see any sense in what they are doing. I suppose they will sit there and the oilmen will just carry on. But good luck to them."

Mr McClean, who has rowed the Atlantic, said that leisure activities were limited because the rock faces made it difficult to walk about and there was a danger of being washed away by high seas. The 65ft-high rock is regularly lashed by 90ft storm waves. But Mr McClean said it was pleasant to chat to fishermen by radio.

The Greenpeace trio are Al, 32, from Newhaven, Sussex, Peter, 40, from Australia, and Meike, 31, a German woman. No surnames have been given. Al and Meike are veterans of the successful Greenpeace protest against the dumping of the Brent Spar oil platform in the Atlantic in 1995. The *MV Greenpeace* will stay in the area to deliver supplies. It is captained by John Castle, veteran of the Brent Spar.

The survival capsule is equipped with solar- and wind-powered computing and communications equipment. But lavatory facilities will be distinctly low-tech: "bucket and chuck it", a Greenpeace spokeswoman explained.

The aim of the protest is to draw attention to global warming caused by fossil fuels. Greenpeace claims that more than 30 oil companies are prospecting in the Atlantic Frontier area despite scientific evidence that the burning of existing oil supplies will have a grave effect on the climate. Al said: "No one has the right to unleash this oil onto our threatened climate."

The oil industry dismissed the protest for "trivialising the issues" surrounding the need for gradual change to renewable energy sources. Andrew Searle, of the UK Offshore Operators Association, said the protesters were making unrealistic demands that the fossil fuel industry be "shut down tomorrow". He said that would jeopardise 300,000 jobs in the UK and was, in effect, asking people to "move back to the Stone Age".

Greenpeace has threatened to take the Government to the High Court over its alleged failure to apply European law to protect cold-water coral in the Atlantic. It wants licences for oil and gas exploration suspended.

BP and Shell are expected to start production at the Foinaven oilfield, 100 miles west of Shetland, later this year. The £550 million development, the first in the Atlantic Frontier, will produce up to 95,000 barrels of oil a day. A BP spokesman said the Atlantic oil would replace declining production in the North Sea.

☐ Only one protester remained at the site of Manchester Airport's planned second runway yesterday after the veteran campaigner Muppet Dave — Dave Howarth, 30 — emerged from his tunnel. He had spent 12 days underground in the tunnel known as the Cakehole.

Jeff Gazzard, a local campaigner, said: "He feels he has made his point. The under-sheriff's men did not get to him, he decided to come up voluntarily."

The remaining demonstrator, Matt, has retreated to a split-level part of the tunnel on the site near Styal, Cheshire. He is about 50ft from the surface, behind eight locked metal doors, and is believed to have enough food to last about two weeks.

Gulf War general rallies volunteer force in defence of the countryside

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

THE commander of British forces during the Gulf War, Sir Peter de la Billière, gave warning yesterday of the irreparably damaging encroachment on the countryside by intensive agriculture and development. The retired general, who now farms near the Welsh border, said: "Once the countryside has been browned or built over it has been lost for ever. In terms of erosion of the countryside we are not far from a national emergency."

He was speaking at the launch in London of a campaign by the Council for the Protection of Rural England to rally the public behind the defence of the country's remaining green spaces. Farming could be profitable without damaging wildlife habitats if it was done sensitively, Sir Peter said. "The land must not be exploited for selfish commercial reasons at the expense of the countryside."

The council's countryside contract sets out the group's views on various issues affecting rural life and the appearance of the landscape, with particular emphasis on destructive farming practices and the spread of housing and roads. Over the next two years, people attending farm shows and other events will be invited by the council's representatives to sign the contract. The signatures will be handed to the Government in the form of a national petition. Copies of the contract can also be obtained free by telephoning 0800 163680.

Celebrities who have already put their names to the contract include most of the cast of *The Archers*; Sir John Gielgud; Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor; Auberon Waugh, the writer; Elton John; and Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI.

DES JENSON

Jonathan Dimbleby and Sir Peter de la Billière at the launch of the campaign yesterday

Jonathan Dimbleby, the broadcaster, who is president of the council, said: "For the first time the contract provides a means of galvanising mass support for the protection of rural England and of bringing popular pressure to bear on decision-makers in Parliament, local authorities and other official bodies." A poll conducted for the council last month by Research Surveys of Great Britain found that 80 per cent of people were worried about the sort of countryside the next generation would inherit, while 69 per cent wanted to stop housing and road schemes which damaged the environment. The contract emphasises official projections that 4.4 million homes will need to be built by 2016, which could mean the urbanisation of an area of countryside equivalent to Greater London, and that, on present trends, road traffic in rural areas will more than double by 2025.

The contract commits signatories to support policies that would reduce traffic levels by 10 per cent by 2010, would give priority to using spare land in existing towns for new housing and that would impose tighter controls on out-of-town shopping centres. The contract also calls for subsidies paid to farmers under the common agricultural policy to be switched from supporting food production towards encouraging landscape management and conservation of wildlife habitats.

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House prices soar in London and the shires

By Kathryn Knight
and Katherine Bergen

PROPERTY prices rose by more than 8 per cent nationally over the past year, with prices doubling in some parts of London.

The predicted recovery in the housing market reached almost every corner of England and Wales, although the South East, Leicestershire, Dorset and Northumberland experienced particularly dramatic rises, according to figures from the Land Registry, a government department. At the same time, the number of houses and flats for sale fell.

Some of the biggest price rises across the country were for new flats and maisonettes, with prices rising by an average 21.95 per cent to £86,996, suggesting a resurgence of first-time buyers.

The figures, for only England and Wales, compare the January-to-March period this year with the corresponding period last year. They are broadly in line with those predicted by leading lenders, such as Halifax and Nationwide. The average house price in England and Wales was £72,900, up 8.6 per cent from £67,097.

The figures show that only three areas out of 45 — the Isle of Wight, Cumbria and North Yorkshire — suffered price falls, and these amounted to only a few hundred pounds difference on last year. In the Isle of Wight the average cost of a home fell by about £834. In North Yorkshire and Cumbria, the falls were less than £300.

Prices across London boroughs rose by 12.2 per cent, taking the average price in the capital from £96,000 to £108,000. In Camden a detached house costing an average of £375,000 early last year rose to about £640,000.

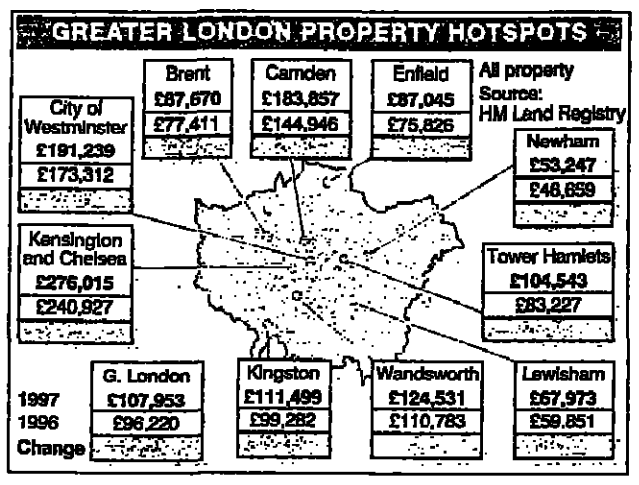
In Leicestershire prices rose by 18.9 per cent, from £49,794 to £59,220, and in Dorset by 17.9 per cent from £65,391 to £77,148. Northumberland experienced an average rise of 10 per cent. Other areas with larger-than-average price rises included Northamptonshire and Surrey.

James Barty, the chief UK economist for Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said he believed that prices would stabilise as more people felt confident about putting their properties on the market. "People got out of the habit of moving house on a regular basis after the 1980s, so now that demand has picked up the supply isn't there, which pushes prices up even more," he said. "Hopefully, though, as the market recovers, more people will be tempted to move and open up the market."

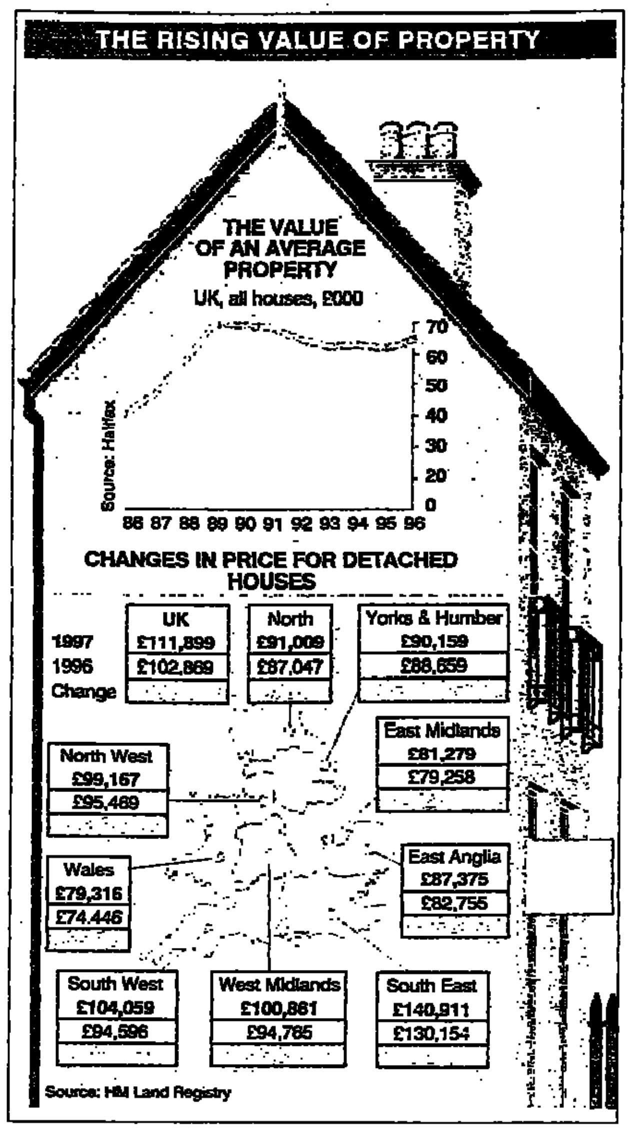
But he gave a warning that prices were in danger of spiralling out of control, particularly in the South East. "The market is very buoyant and there is a danger that, when recovery gets a degree of momentum behind it, it is difficult to stop."

However, Gary Marsh, for Halifax Property Services, said: "It's what you would expect at this stage of recovery, and it's sustainable growth." He added that the "frothiness" of the London market would not spread nationally because income growth and economic recovery were not out of control. "So we are seeing a steady and sustainable recovery in the housing market."

GREATER LONDON PROPERTY HOTSPOTS


All property
Source: HM Land Registry
1997
1996
Change
City of Westminster £191,239 £173,312
Brent £87,670 £77,411
Camden £183,857 £144,946
Enfield £87,045 £75,826
Newham £53,247 £48,659
Kensington and Chelsea £276,015 £240,927
Tower Hamlets £104,543 £83,227
G. London £107,953 £96,220
Kingston £111,499 £99,282
Wandsworth £124,531 £110,783
Lewisham £67,973 £59,851

THE RISING VALUE OF PROPERTY



Princess briefed by Cook prior to landmine visit

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

DIANA, Princess of Wales, was briefed yesterday by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, before her trip to Washington next week to raise funds for the victims of landmines.

The Princess had asked for a meeting so she could be updated on Anglo-American issues, but the occasion offered her the chance to raise concerns about civilian casualties caused by anti-personnel landmines — 24,000 people are killed or maimed each year. When the Princess visited Angola with the Red Cross in January, she was criticised by some Conservatives for raising the issue of landmines. At the time, the Princess made clear that her concerns were humanitarian, not political.

Since taking office last month, Mr Cook has ordered a complete ban on any British trade in landmines and announced a moratorium on their operational use by British forces and the destruction of all British stocks by 2005. The Princess is clearly delighted that her campaign has been taken seriously by the Government and the meeting yesterday was an opportunity for her to thank Mr Cook for his speedy action. Whitehall officials confirmed that Mr Cook and Ms Short shared many of the Princess's concerns.

The Princess was given a full account of the Government's policy on landmines during the 35-minute meeting at the Foreign Office. She was told that Britain was joining the Ottawa Process — an initiative by 50 nations to secure a global ban on landmines, possibly by the end of the year.

The Princess has had Foreign Office briefings in the past, and Whitehall sources made clear yesterday that she was not seeking any new role but had merely wanted to be fully briefed before visiting Washington.

Her three-day visit next week is in a private capacity and is in support of the American Red Cross, which is hosting a fundraising gala dinner for the victims of landmines throughout the world.

Plaice go to great lengths to lay eggs

By Nigel Hawkes

THE plaice leads a surprisingly adventurous life, travelling much further afield than scientists believed.

Tagging experiments by fishery scientists at Lowestoft, Suffolk, have shown that one fish travelled more than 550 miles in 56 days before being caught close to where it had been released. The fish carried small electronic sensors capable of storing data such as depth and temperature.

Dr Geoff Arnold, of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science at Lowestoft, said: "It was known that they moved, but nobody had any idea how fast. These results show they move ten times faster than we thought. They also tell us a lot about spawning behaviour and that could have implications for protecting stocks."

Dr Arnold and Dr Julian Metcalfe attached tags to 303 female plaice between December 1993 and February this year. The fish had been caught by a trawler and allowed to recover in the aquarium at Lowestoft before being released in the same area.

So far, 37 of the tags have been returned by commercial fishermen, who get a £25 reward. The data shows the fish catch a ride on the tide going the right way, swimming about twice as fast as the current, before sinking to the bottom when it turns.

Dr Arnold reports in *Nature* that the main purpose is to lay eggs in the right place. "Plaice eggs float free, so are carried along by drift. The fish lay them in a location chosen so that drift carries the eggs towards the nursery grounds where the young fish develop."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Another jail sentence for singer

The soul singer Mark Morrison, who is serving a three-month jail sentence for threatening a police officer with a stun gun, was yesterday given a further 14 days, to run concurrently, after he admitted smashing a photographer's camera. Morrison, 25, appearing at Marylebone Magistrates' Court in central London, pleaded guilty to criminal damage.

Girl discharged

A 12-year-old girl who spent six days on remand in an adult prison on the Isle of Man was given a 12-month conditional discharge after admitting assault and criminal damage. She has returned to a children's home.

Drug 'shop'

A man who fortified his home and used it as a "shop" where he sold cocaine and heroin was jailed for 5½ years at Winchester Crown Court. Richard Lovell, 47, of Bristol, admitted conspiracy to supply cocaine and heroin.

Hemp on sale

Hemp, an energy drink containing cannabis-plant extracts, went on sale for the first time in Britain at Selfridges, the London department store, after Home Office tests to ensure that it had no narcotic substances.

Train honour

The widow of the entertainer Roy Castle unveiled a locomotive at Waterloo station in London and was surprised to find that it had been named in her honour. She had expected the *Fiona Castle* to be named *The Tour of Hope*.

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint from Mr Turnbull, The Asssociated Examining Board and the Southern Examining Group - Summary of Adjudication

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission (now the Broadcasting Standards Commission) have largely upheld a complaint against a programme in Channel 4's Dispatches series entitled "Making the Grades". The programme, which was broadcast on 11 Ocotober 1995, considered the alleged lowering of examination standards in response to government policy and competition between the examination boards. The complaint of unfair and unjust treatment was brought by Mr Turnbull, The Associated Examining Board (AEB) and its subsidiary, the Southern Examining Group (SEG). Mr Turnbull, Director of Public Relations for The AEB and the SEG, had contributed to the programme by giving an interview.

The Commission found that some unfairness arose because the programme-makers had not disclosed for Turnbull in advance the identity of the other contributors to the programme. They considered that the programe might well have left viewers with an unfair impression that the problems of grade inflation and consistency between exam boards' decisions claimed by one of the programme's contributors were linked specifically to his experience as an AEB/SEG senior examiner. They found some unfairness in the programme's "reconstruction" of an awarding meeting, which gave the impression of a secretive, if not sleazy, gathering, which the Commission found hard to believe could be typical of such a meeting. They also found some unfairness in the way the programme was edited so as to imply that Mr Turnbull had acknowledged that financial competition was built into the system. The programme had wrongly and unfairly implied that Mr Turnbull did not attend awarding meetings as a matter of course.

The Commision had found that the programme had not been unfair in some of the ways alleged, such as its selection of statistical evidence, but they did find that the theme of the programme - deliberate and secretive grade-rigging by examination boards - was at best an exaggeration and, accordingly, unfair.

You can get a copy of the full adjudication by writing to the Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.

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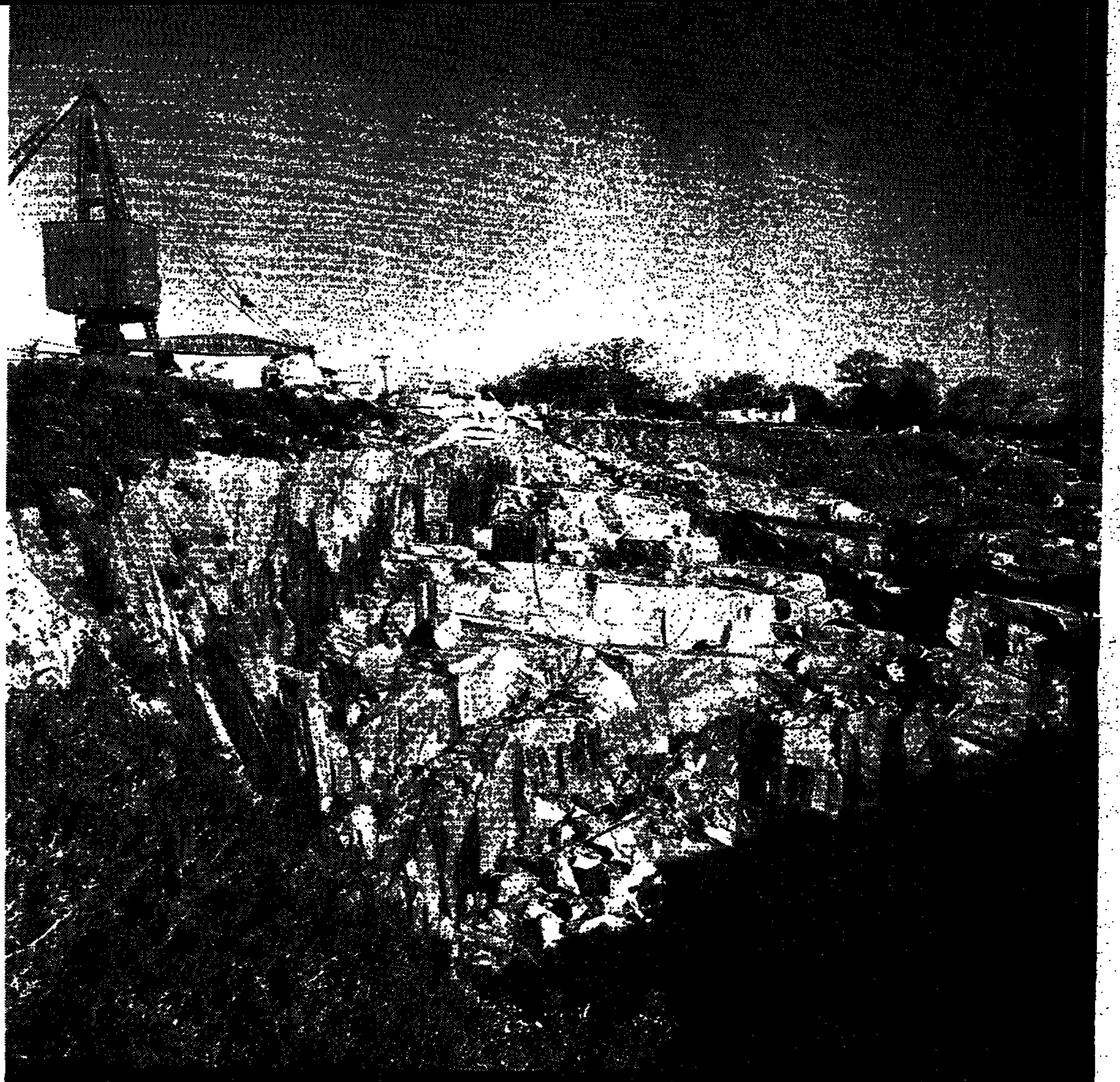

A stone slate quarry. Prettier than a concrete roof tile.

The average open-cast stone slate quarry is not a pretty sight.

But in our view, it's a sight more attractive than the concrete roof tile.

Over the past several decades, England's traditional roofscapes have been slowly but surely disappearing.

All over the country, original stone slate roofs have been replaced by modern, mass-produced substitutes.

The trouble is, they are no substitute for the real thing.

Moulded concrete tiles, by their very nature, have a uniformity of size and shape that is the antithesis of the hand-cut stone slate.

In colour, texture and patination, they bear little or no relation to the natural limestone and sandstone they attempt to mimic.

And they certainly don't last as long. (Many stone slate roofs are still going strong after 300 years.)

But of course, they are cheaper.

It is much easier to extrude pre-formed concrete tiles than it is to extract stone slates from the ground.

As a consequence, local stone slate quarries have all but disappeared.

At English Heritage, we believe it's high time we revived the stone slate roofing industry in this country.

Not by opening new quarries, but by re-opening old ones.

Despite our assertion above, stone slate quarries are relatively small blemishes on the landscape.

Indeed, most of them are remote from towns and villages and therefore only visible to people passing through.

Opening up these quarries would also open up much needed local employment opportunities.

Inevitably, as the industry has declined, so has the number of craftspeople skilled in the production and use of stone slates.

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THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION
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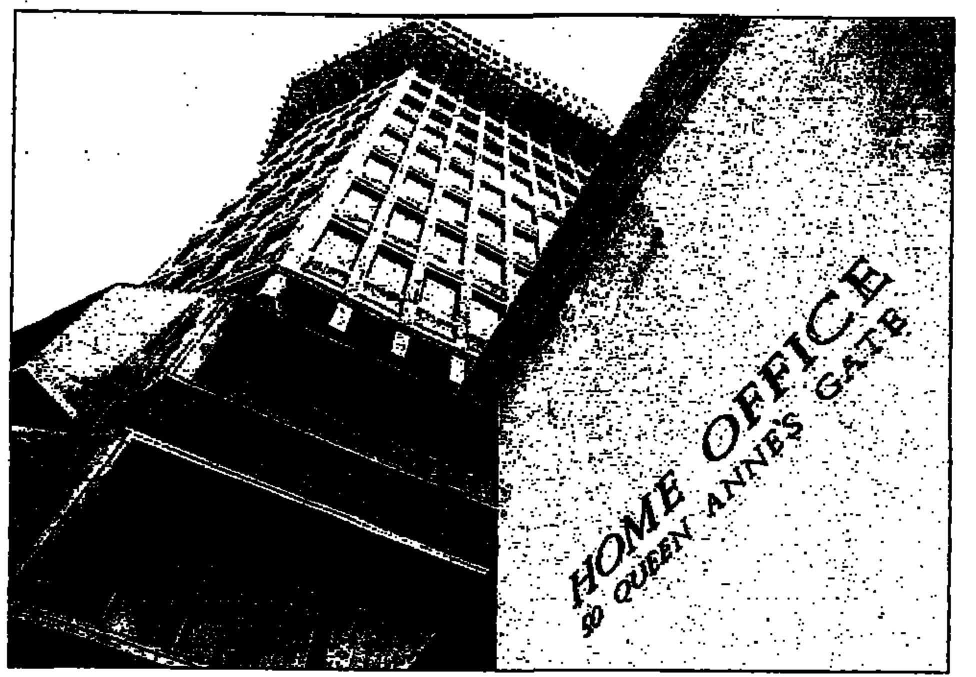
Reformer Straw is on parole

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT



The ministry's civil servants testify to a more humane regime under Jack Straw

K STRAW is facing the sequences of having spent months ensuring there was a hair's breadth between policies and those of Mich- Howard. He cannot overturn key parts of the Tory legacy for fear of leaving Labour open to the charge that talks tough on law and order acts soft.

More than any other minister, the Home Secretary is at the mercy of events. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, who twice held the office for Labour, described the climate in the department as "sudden violent storms out of a clear sky".

The storms can come from anywhere in a department whose responsibilities range from the exhumation of bodies to firearms, the Channel Islands and royalty.

Squalls that can inflict major political damage include publication of the six-monthly crime figures (which are used widely to determine whether the Government is winning the law and order battle); a serious intrusion into one of the royal residences; and a prison riot.

One of Mr Straw's first decisions was that there would be no executive release of prisoners from the overcrowded jails. Yet the forecast surge in the prison population, the need for new jails and the financial consequences are a timebomb beneath the seat of government.

That course has been set by his predecessor's policies, and until Mr Straw can overhaul community sentences and convince the public that they are a real punishment, he will have to live with a huge jail population.

Mr Straw's own plans for the criminal justice system were worked out in painstaking detail while in opposition and bear the influence of Labour's core support on the estates where residents demanded action against such anti-social behaviour as youths roaming the streets, rowdy neighbours and truanting children.

Disillusioned with the culture of excusing criminality and bad behaviour, he makes no apologies for talking about punishment and demanding better behaviour and greater individual responsibility. He arrived at the Home Office with detailed proposals to reform the youth justice system and to deal with parental irresponsibility.

But it will need at least 18 months to put the legislation through Parliament and perhaps a further 18 months to be fully operational. Even then it will be difficult to provide supervision of young children whose chaotic backgrounds often go back generations.

In the meantime, Mr Straw has set out to improve senior Home Office management and to end the culture of suspicion and blame that emerged under his predecessor. One official said: "It is refreshing to work with people who actually appear to be members of the human race and who seem to like each other." Mr Straw's willingness to exchange gossip and talk with officials has been much commented upon, as was his insistence at an early meeting with senior mandarins that they be less deferential towards him.

He and his ministers have gone out of their way to call in the penal pressure groups who feel that they have been out in the cold for years. These activists have been delighted at the access and the willingness of ministers to listen attentively to their arguments.

Key figures from the penal reform lobby are to be chosen for a task force that will advise how the youth justice system can be changed. It will be chaired by Norman Warner, Mr Straw's special policy adviser, but the penal reform groups will approve the inclusion of Paul Cavadino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, and Cedric Fulwood, chief probation officer of Greater Manchester.

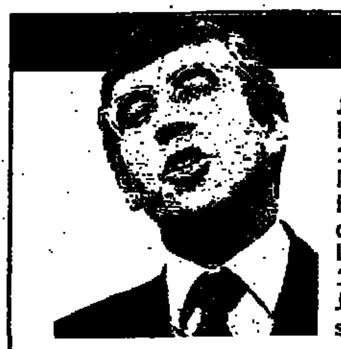
The pressure groups should beware. A penal reformer said: "The thing about this group of ministers is that, like the rest of new Labour, they are good at preaching openness, but access is not to be mistaken for influence."

The In-Tray

PRISON population rising by 200 week with latest projections sug- esting increase from 60,000 to 4,500 by 2005. This is without stimated 10-12,000 rise caused y minimum three-year sentences r repeat domestic burglars and crapping automatic early release. he Prison Service is searching for tes for new jails in the face of ounting public opposition henever plans become public. traw is opposed to private prisons t there is no public money to uild them. He is investigating whether private sector would build jails and maintain them, with the state managing them.

- Myra Hindley's challenge to former Home Secretary's rule that she must stay in jail for all her life. Twenty-three other offenders, including IRA terrorists, mass murderers Denis Nilsen and Donald Neilsen, the Black Panther, have also been given natural life.
- Sir David Ramsbotham, chief inspector of prisons, pressing for his remit to cover the Prison Service and believes that Mr Straw is more sympathetic to his ambitions than the previous Home Office regime.
- Television in cells. The former administration ducked taking a decision to order their removal.
- Pressure to relax tough restrictions on early release and home leave for prisoners.
- Future of secure training orders and centres for persistent teenage tearaways aged 12-14. Contract for one of five centres signed. Will Straw go ahead with the other four, buy out the contract signed with Group 4 or try to use the centre as part of secure accommodation network for youngsters? The orders look unlikely to come into operation.
- New chairman of the Tote to replace Lord Wyatt of Weeford. New chairman of the Parole Board to replace Lord Belstead, former Tory junior Home Office Minister.
- Future of proposed supermax prison for most dangerous and serious offenders
- Pressure mounting for regulation of the private security industry.
- Reform of the police service pension system because of the huge burden being placed on forces. By the end of the century it is estimated that police forces nationally will face an annual bill of £1billion for pension contributions. The service has no fund but meets pensions from annual budgets.

MINISTRY TEAM



JACK STRAW: Secretary of State for Home Department. Punctilious, smart 49-year-old who joined the Labour Party aged 15. First made headlines in 1969 when elected president of the National Union of Students. Almost deaf in right ear. Educated Brentwood School, Essex, Leeds University, and Inns of Court Law School. Barrister Inner Temple 1972-1974, Islington councillor, political adviser to Barbara Castle 1974-1976. In 1979 inherited Castle's Blackburn seat. Jogger and cooks a mean pudding, particularly of the public school variety such as spotted dick.

ALUN MICHAEL: Minister of State. Ambitious and sharp North Walian succeeded James Callaghan in Cardiff South and Penarth in 1987 after a lengthy apprenticeship in South Wales local politics. Opposition whip 1987-1988, spokesman on Welsh affairs 1988-1992 and home affairs 1992-1997. Tipped as a future Cabinet minister, perhaps as Secretary of State for Wales. Aged 53.

JOYCE QUIN: Minister of State. Quiet but highly intelligent 52-year-old Tynesider who was the surprise choice as Prisons Minister when all had expected her to be Minister for Europe. MP for Gateshead East 1987–1997; Gateshead East-Washington West 1997–. MEP Tyne and Wear 1979–1989.

GEORGE HOWARTH: Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Took a demotion when Blair formed his Government as he had been Shadow Prisons Minister in opposition. His new role is to "support" Ms Quin on prisons. Worthy 49-year-old Liverpudlian who won Knowsley North at a by-election in 1986 after the resignation of Robert Kilroy-Silk. Educated at Knowsley Secondary School, Kirkby College of FE, Liverpool Polytechnic.

MIKE O'BRIEN: Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Another surprise Home Office appointment as Mr O'Brien, 42, MP for Warwickshire North, had been part of Gordon Brown's Treasury team. Educated at Worcester Technical College and North Staffordshire Polytechnic, he was a law lecturer and solicitor before entering the Commons in 1992.

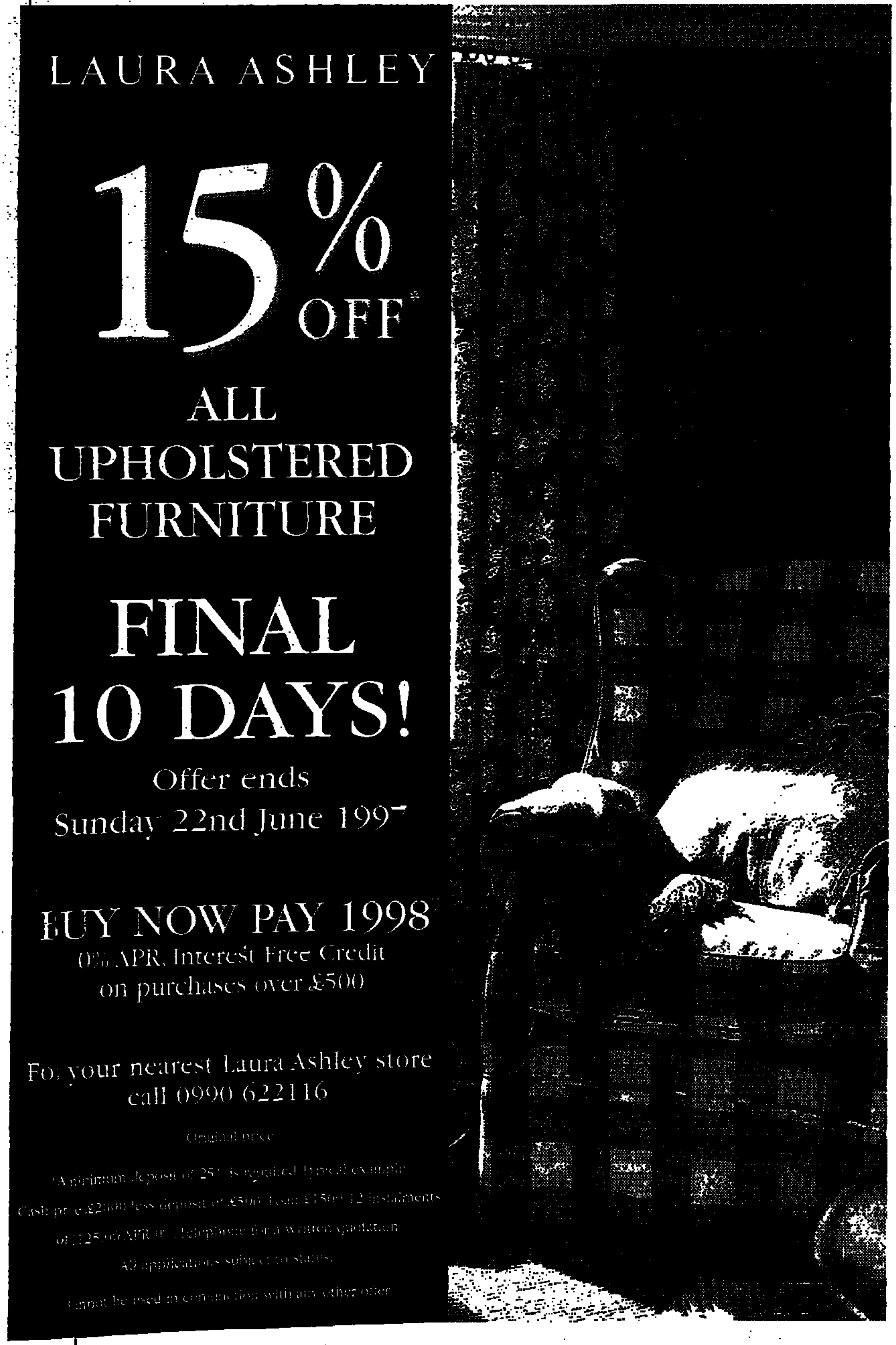
NORMAN WARNER: special policy adviser. He was one of the trio who were Barbara Castle's "three musketeers" when she was Secretary of State for Social Services in Wilson's governments. The others were a young Jack Straw, her political adviser, and Janet Anderson, her constituency secretary, now Labour MP for Rossendale and Darwen. Mr Warner, a civil servant, was her principal private secretary and became close friends with Mr Straw. In February last year he rejoined Mr Straw as an adviser. Invaluable because he knows his way around Whitehall.

At 56, he is the oldest special adviser. Educated at Dulwich College and the University of California, Berkeley, he began his Whitehall career at the Department of Health in 1959 and finally left government in 1985 to become director of social services in Kent.

LORD WILLIAMS OF MOSTYN: Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Made a working peer by Neil Kinnock, Gareth Williams, 55, is a former chairman of the Bar Council. Like his ministerial colleague Alun Michael, he is a North Walian. Educated at Rhyl Grammar School and Queen's College, Cambridge, he is a former leader of the Wales and Chester Circuit.

RICHARD WILSON: Permanent Secretary. Very much Michael Howard's choice as the man at the top in 1994. He was appointed, in spite of strong resistance by the Cabinet Secretary, by Howard, who was determined to change the culture of a department long suspected of harbouring a liberal collective view on criminal justice policy. Unstuffy manner. Aged 55, educated at Radley College and Cambridge University, was called to the Bar before beginning his civil service career at the old Board of Trade. Wife is daugther of the late Sir Frank Lee, who was joint permanent secretary at the Treasury 1960-1962.

ED OWEN: political adviser. Aged 29, educated at Egglescliffe comprehensive school, Stockton on Tees and Manchester University, read politics. Worked for Jack Straw since 1993. Formerly a journalist on the *Stockport Messenger*, he is there to spin to the lobby, particularly the key tabloids, on behalf of Straw and protect his back within the parliamentary party.



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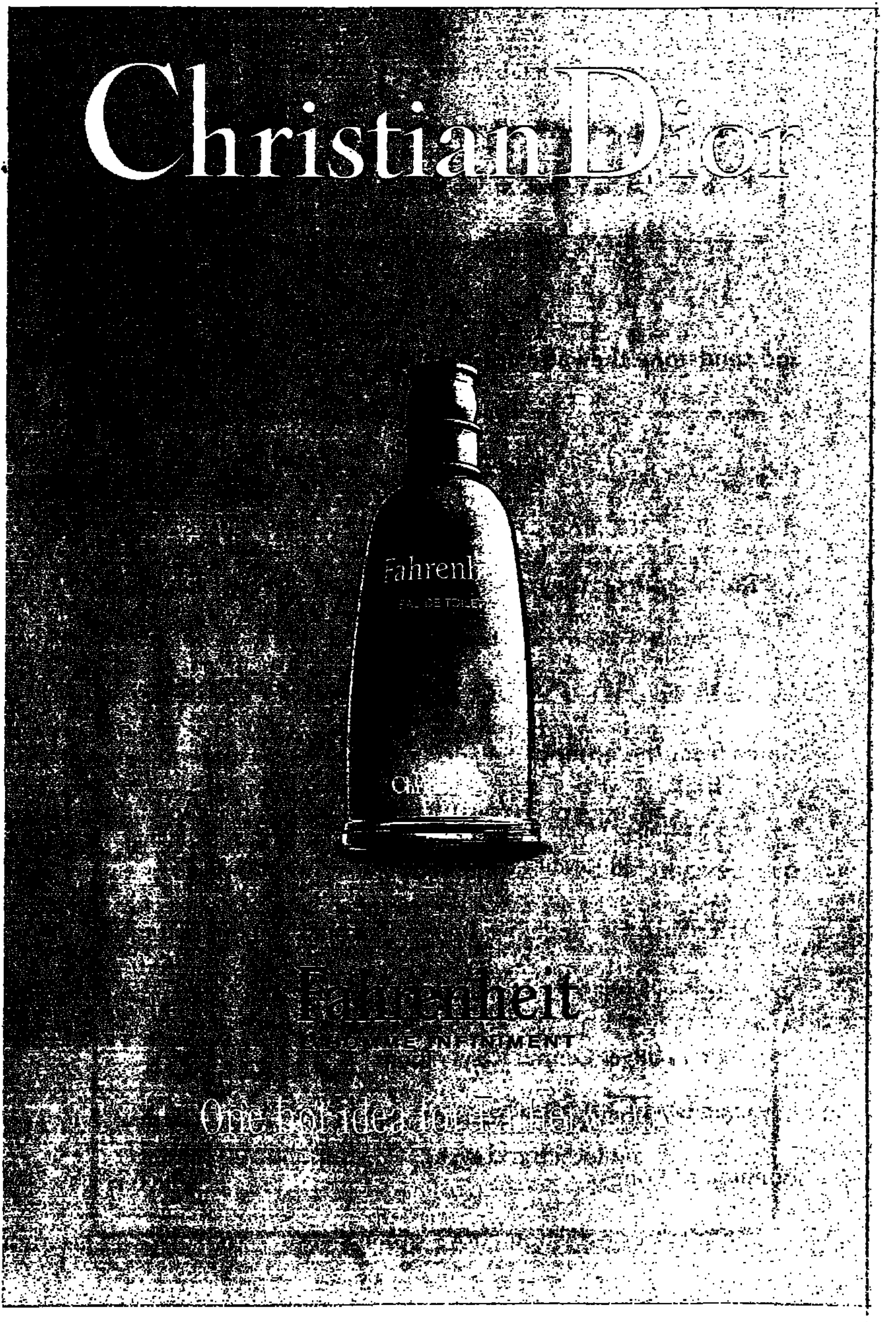

The making of William Hague

The young pretender: William Hague at three and as a schoolboy of eight. At 16 his performance at the Tory conference caught the eye of Margaret Thatcher. Today, at 36, he hopes to follow in her footsteps

By Dominic Kennedy, Paul Wilkinson
and James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE'S early enthusiasm for politics was matched by a "precocious knowledge of malt whisky" and wide popularity earned by a reputation for fun and pranks. Despite reading parliamentary reports at 15 and captivating the 1977 Conservative party conference with a Thatcherite speech at 16, the Tory leadership challenger led a normal teenage life according to friends and family.

He was born in March 1961 at Rotherham Hospital. His parents, Nigel and Stella Hague, lived in a large detached house in the village of Greasbrough, in the South Yorkshire coalfield. His father ran the long-established family business, Hague's Pop Factory.

He has three elder sisters Jane, Veronica and Sally. "It was sometimes like he had four mothers," his mother said. "He came six years after my youngest daughter, Sally, and they were always putting him in his place."

He went first to Greasbrough Primary School where he developed a passion for history and model soldiers. "He would refight the great battles like Waterloo over the carpet and woe betide me if I moved a piece," Mrs Hague said.

When he was 11, he won a rare boarding scholarship to Ripon Grammar School. "He was only there for a term." Mrs Hague said. "There were only about four other boys of his age who were boarders and I think, for the first and last time in his life, he was bored. We sent him to the Wath-upon-Dearne comprehensive where he seemed much happier." There he befriended many miners' children, and gained popularity with pranks such as getting a stalwart of the climbing club to put a friend's satchel on the school roof.

He achieved A grades in all his O levels except Greek, in which he got a B. "He went around telling everybody he was hopeless," said Robert Godber, a former Tory candidate who taught A-level politics. Mr Godber lent the boy recordings of the speeches of Winston Churchill, which his pupil learnt by heart.

He memorised the name and constituency of every MP but his friends were unimpressed. David Rusby, his best friend at school, said: "If he did start on politics we used to thump him and tell him to shut up and talk about something more interesting."

Mr Hague was the star of the school debating society, best remembered for a "balloon debate" when he took the role of Harold Wilson, arriving dressed in a Gannex raincoat, complete with pipe and a dog on a lead.

At 13, Mr Hague was a member of the Young Conservatives and put a poster of Margaret Thatcher on his bedroom wall. At 15 he had Hansard sent to his home. His godfather, Jack Walley, said: "All he ever wanted to do was go into politics. You would be more likely to find him with his head in Hansard than the *Dandy*."

Mrs Hague said: "We had always voted Conservative, but had no other interest beyond that. Then, in 1974 he watched the election coverage on the television. It was the battle between Heath and Wilson. He became fascinated and watched all the debates and read about all the issues. When he was about 15 I took him to the House of Commons with a friend to watch Harold Wilson in a debate."

The next year he brought the Tory party conference alive with his speech advocating Thatcherism and condemning the Wets. *The Times* reported: "Looking somewhat like a baby Harold Wilson but speaking with the authority and cadence of a baby Churchill, he electrified the conference with a stern summons to rivive Conservatism." Margaret Thatcher spoke of him as a possible new Pitt.

Despite his enthusiasm for politics, Mr Hague was not considered dull at school. Mr Rusby said: "People think of him as a swot, always having his head in a book, but he was not like that. He was just a normal kid. We talked about girls and last night's football."

Mr Godber recalled Mr Hague, whose father owned a share in the Rockingham Arms pub in Wentworth, having a "precocious knowledge of malt whisky". John Smith's Bitter, however, was his usual tipple.

A friend claimed that once, on his birthday, a youthful Mr Hague downed 32 rum-and-cokes before staggering home to bed, still on his feet. Mr Rusby said: "He was always able to take drink. I reckon it wasn't far off 32. But I don't think he has had a rum since." His house parties were legendary. "There would be quite a bit of drink. People would disappear under the settee, including William, once or twice." One Christmas Eve, with a gang of friends, a worse-for-wear Mr Hague resolved to go into midnight Mass and deliver an oration from the pulpit. "He had to be physically restrained by us on the steps of the church to stop him," Mr Rusby said.

As a youth, William earned pocket money helping to deliver mineral water and beer to pubs. Mrs Hague said: "I think going out like that on the lorries, meeting people, helped him to get on. That, and going to a comprehensive where all sorts go, gave him the common touch. He can get on with anybody. He loves people."

Although William hated most sports, he used to swim in reservoirs near home, which was forbidden. He now exercises daily and does transcendental meditation to relax.

After school, Mr Hague went to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he secured a first in politics, philosophy and economics. He was a keen debater and won the presidency of the Oxford Union. A populist president, he raised the eyes of more traditional dons by choosing the X-rated *Carnal Knowledge* for the film programme and inviting crowd-pleasing speakers such as the agony aunt Marjorie Proops.

Brooks Newmark, a friend at Oxford, who later helped him to get a job at the management consultant McKinsey & Co, said: "William was very bright but, compared with a lot of politically ambitious people, he was extremely relaxed, very friendly. There was not a scintilla of arrogance."

After leaving Oxford, Mr Hague collected an MBA at Insead business school in France, spent a year as a Shell trainee before moving to McKinsey's where he stayed until entering Parliament.

After standing for his home town of Wentworth, a safe Labour seat, in 1987, he secured the Yorkshire seat of Richmond in 1989 in the last by-election won by the Tories. John Major swiftly appointed him parliamentary private secretary to the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, from 19[illegible] to 1993. He then became a junior Social Security Minister and later replaced Sir Nicholas Scott as Minister for the Disabled.

In 1995, at the age of 3[illegible] he became Welsh Secretary, the youngest Tory Cabinet minister this century. Mr Major considered him one of the outstanding middle-ranking ministers but had not been planning to promote him to the Cabinet so soon. The vacancy provided by John Redwood's resignation gave Mr Hague a quick route to the Cabinet table.

For much of his political career, Mr Hague has had to contend with rumours that he is not the marrying kind. This is despite having had several girlfriends. When asked in a recent newspaper interview if he were homosexual, Mr Hague said "no" amid gales of laughter. He is engaged to Ffion Jenkins, 29, his former private secretary at the Welsh Office.

Mr Newmark said the rumours were "complete cra[illegible]. I have never heard such drivel. I have known all his girlfriends since he was 18"

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF WILLIAM HAGUE

By Mark Henderson

WILLIAM HAGUE'S political views remain opaque despite a career that stretches back two decades to his famous speech as a 16-year-old at the Tory party conference in 1977.

After being elected for Richmond in 1989, he enjoyed the freedom of the back benches for little more than a year before joining the government payroll. Since then he has rarely strayed beyond his portfolio. Here are some of the things he has said.

On politics

The people don't want to go to Callaghan's promised land, which must surely rank as the most abhorrent and miserable land that has ever been promised to the people of a nation state. It's all right for you, half of you won't be here in 30 or 40 years time. But I will be and I want to be free.

Party conference, Oct 1977 (aged 16)

The SDP will degenerate into the heterosexual wing of the Liberal Party.

Oxford Union Society, 1981

Gladstone would speak for four hours and thousands would listen attentively. Now if a politician speaks for 45 minutes it is regarded as too long.

Nov 1988

On Europe

One of the lessons of the past few years is that it is easier to unite the party behind a clear position than a constantly shifting fudge.

May 1997

Our policy would be to oppose monetary union on sovereignty grounds.

May 1997

Education

If I had kids I'd send them to the local comprehensive. People who go private are wasting their money.

July 1996

The constitution

It is hard to defend an assembly where most members sit through privilege or accident of birth.

Party conference, 1990

Labour's plans for devolution are a breakfast to which no self-respecting dog would put its name.

Party conference, 1996

Society

Bring back hanging.

Richmond by-election, Feb 1989

Tax

Remember . . . only the Conservatives can keep taxes down.

Election address, 1992

Election defeat

The free and prosporous society that we had championed became tainted with the image of sleaze, greed, self-indulgence and division.

May 1997

Contenders concentrate on the vital statistics

By Philip Webster

WILLIAM HAGUE, Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood began the second stage of their lengthy charm offensive on Tory MPs within minutes of Tuesday's first-round result being declared.

Their first objective in the second ballot next Tuesday is to be certain of reaching the final run-off between the top two candidates two days later. The magic figure for that is 55.

On paper Mr Clarke has the easiest task, having scored 49 in the first round. The former minister John Taylor, who voted for Michael Howard in the first round, and Michael Fabricant, who voted for John Redwood, have joined the Clarke camp and others are said to have pledged their second preferences. His team is already working on the ultimate target: the 83 votes needed to win the run-off.

Mr Hague, who scored 41, needs a further 14 to make the final round. Mr Howard and Mr Lilley are his most prominent new recruits; Richard Spring has also moved from Mr Lilley and others are poised to go over.

Most fascinating of all is Mr Redwood. With 27 votes on the first ballot he needs a further 28 to progress beyond next Tuesday. But the total of Lilley-Howard votes to be redistributed is 47, almost all of them from the Right.

Three known recruits are Desmond Swayne and Sir Richard Body, who voted for Mr Howard, and John Bercow, who voted for Mr Lilley. At his press conference yesterday Mr Redwood was brimming with optimism.

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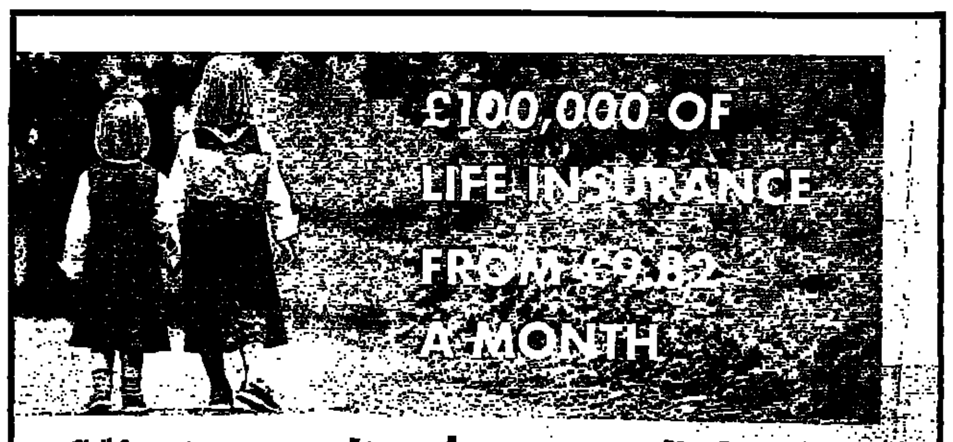

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Blair increases pressure on MPs to back gun ban

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

TCY BLAIR and the new Mho represents Dunblane pil forces last night to urge ll to back a ban on all laguns.

Te Prime Minister inead pressure on backbenrers to follow his lead in a feeote, insisting that they hc duty to the victims of lstear's massacre in Dunbarto support a total ban. Theove towards a full ban cr only months after MPs vte to bar all handguns ece .22 calibre weapons.

Tl new legislation is inteo to take a further 40,000 lea, held handguns out of cittion and increase the esited £150 million set asor compensation.

Blair indicated his backin fa further change in the la ortly before MPs gather r a tense debate on the issevhich has been bitterly dibd between the proshog lobby and anti-gun canaigners. Yesterday shog groups staged a lastmie attempt to win greater copsation for businesses, gu cbs and individuals.

ne McGuire, who took Stirling for Labour at the general election, defeating Michael Forsyth, the then Scottish Secretary, yesterday reminded MPs of the atrocity of Dunblane, which is within her constituency. "Like many Members here, I wish I wasn't discussing this issue today," Mrs McGuire said. "But we have to remember exactly why we are discussing it. Thomas Hamilton went into a primary school in Dunblane with four high-calibre guns, 473 bullets, fired 106 shots, killed 16 children and their teacher and injured 15 more.

"Only eight years before, we saw a similar incident in the town of Hungerford. We should never forget the context of this debate, because we are criticised for bringing an emotional element to the gun debate — but it's the emotional element which makes us different from other species."

The Prime Minister earlier told the Commons: "I think we do owe a moral responsibility to the victims of Dunblane and their families. That is the reason why we have sought to bring forward this legislation. The last Government did, it is true, do a great deal in the banning of handguns. We believe that all handguns should be banned. That is my personal belief.

"I think they are the right measures and I think we all remember in this House the day of Dunblane and what happened there and we want to do all in our power to make sure that that never happens again."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, opening the Second Reading debate, said: "I recognise there will be law-abiding shooters who will be inconvenienced or worse as a result, and I regret that. But I am in no doubt where the balance should be struck between the right to practise sport and the right to life — particularly the right to life of a child."

Michael Howard, the Shadow Home Secretary, attacked the provisions of the Bill, insisting that the measures introduced by the last Government were sufficient. "The proposals in this Bill are unnecessary, unfair and expensive," he said. The Conservatives put forward an amendment to the Bill, calling for a delay to further changes until the partial ban could be assessed.

Mr Straw said that no system of controls, however tough, could guarantee there would never be another Hungerford or Dunblane, but it was the responsibility of Government to do all it could to reduce the risks and protect the innocent.

The previous Government's Firearms (Amendment) Act, which banned all handguns except .22s, did not go far enough, he said. "Its fundamental flaw was that — illogically and dangerously — it allowed 40,000 handguns to remain available for use. I believe it is now the duty of this House to close this loophole and institute a total ban."

He was opposed from his own backbenches by Frank Cook, the MP for Stockton North, who said the new law would be "unenforceable". He called on senior Labour figures not to put pressure on MPs during the vote and to allow a genuinely free vote.

Joan Ruddock, left, who is to be junior Minister for Women, with her boss, Harriet Harman, yesterday

Ruddock takes job as minister without pay

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

JOAN RUDDOCK accepted a government post without pay yesterday after the Prime Minister reached the full complement of salaried ministers stipulated by the law.

Mrs Ruddock is to be a junior minister for women — but without the usual salary increment of £23,623 a year. She will do the job on her MP's pay of £43,860 a year, and is the only minister who has not been offered a salary. Geoffrey Robinson, a millionaire businessman, is Paymaster General but only draws his salary as MP for Coventry North West; and the wealthy industrialist Lord Simon of Highbury is also giving his services free, as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. Last night Mrs Ruddock said the lack of pay was a technicality and did not reflect badly on her post.

"I would not have dreamt of taking the post without this clarification. I have the powers of any minister," she said.

Mrs Ruddock, 53, will have an office in Whitehall and duties at the Dispatch Box. Her job is to assist Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, on women's issues.

Clearly delighted by the job, she said: "My personal ambition is that, come the millennium, women will say: 'This Labour Government has made a difference to my life.'"

Mrs Ruddock, MP for Lewisham Deptford, entered Parliament in 1987, and was chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament between 1981 and 1985.

Darling will boost private-sector deals

Jll Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

ANNTIATIVE to boost the nuer of joint public-private se rojects was launched bysair Darling last night.

Chief Secretary to the Tury also announced a rev of public spending, urg every government depaent and every minister tourinise their programme foavings. Every departmwould have to assess its but from a "zero base" and ju how each element met maesto objectives.

he made clear that in fu more services could be prded by the private sector or joint projects. "We will coer how best to provide sees — what should be prded by the public sector, thevate sector, or a combina of both," Mr Darling sai a Commons statement. "What counts is what works." The aim was to "strip out ill-targeted spending programmes that benefit only the few and redirect spending towards the priorities of the many".

Mr Darling said that he would also look at cross-departmental spending, to ensure that programmes were not duplicated. Each Whitehall department has now been asked to draw up an inventory of their assets. "We need to know what the Government owns and whether it needs these assets."

Kenneth Clarke, the Shadow Chancellor accused the Government of using "smoke and mirrors" in preparing the ground to moving away from the Tories' strict spending controls.

Labour's prospects hang on outcome of spending review

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

TH success of the Blair Gonment will largely be dehined by the results of themprehensive spending rew. This was formally lauhed yesterday in a lowkeyommons statement that waong on aspiration but shon substance. But it goes to heart of whether Labourn fulfil its central claims dur the election of shifting prities on public spending — tably from welfare to eduion — and of improving rvices without raising the burden.

Lour has sought to demonse its resolve not just by stic to the existing Tory sperg limits for the next two ears but also by the comhensive review. This was nounced by Alistair Darl, Chief Secretary to the Tasury, who has already imprsed Whitehall with his grasp he aim is the familiar one oll Chief Secretaries — to ideiy any programmes that c be scrapped or scaled downnd to see whether the Govetnent's objectives can be achved more cheaply and efficiety. Every department, Mr arling said, "will scrutie its spending plans, in detafrom a zero base". As I wroton Monday, there is some wid-weary scepticism amongivil servants, who have sn comprehensive reviews me and go, most recentlhe one launched by MichaePortillo when he was Chief Sretary. The results have uslly not matched the initial etoric because the Treasunas not been able to overcon departmental vested interes.

Each partment will conduct its n review, on terms of referee to be announced shortly. he Treasury, the DowninStreet Policy Unit and the fficiency Unit will all be onthe review teams. One senil minister said the review ws not only being taken serusly but also offered a chacefor a fresh look at previoly unquestioned programms.

Mr Darng said that the review wod consider "what should be provided by the public sect, the private sector, or a cobination of both in publicrivate partnerships". This will be the real test of how far Mr Blair's self-consciously non-ideological approach is accepted by some "old" Labour stalwarts in the middle and lower ranks of Government. Some new Labour ministers now talk like their Tory precedessors in their enthusiasm for the private finance initiative and in accepting greater private involvement.

In addition, the reviews will look at cross-departmental issues, which, for example, link the Departments of Health, Social Security, Education and Employment and the Home Office. The exercise will be co-ordinated by the ministerial committee on public expenditure chaired by Gordon Brown and will include a review of the use of government assets. There is a 12-month timescale, with the results affecting spending plans from 1999 onwards.

But, first, the Treasury has to show that its tough short-term line can be held. Admittedly, talk about not holding the usual annual spending round this year is a sleight of hand. It is true that there will be no review of the overall total and departments cannot seek increases in their individual budgets. But decisions have to be taken every autumn on public sector pay, grants to local councils and the uprating of social security benefits. There are also severe pressures on the schools budget which will have to be adjusted if severe cutbacks are to be avoided. Moreover, even outgoing Tory ministers admitted that the health budget for 1998-99 would have to receive more money from the reserve. The Treasury is not giving anything away, yet, but some adjustments are certain in the autumn. What matters is that the overall total remains intact. The Treasury has to be seen to win this battle if it is to have any chance of winning the long drawn-out campaign of the comprehensive reviews.

PETER RIDDELL

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6

Former British policemen sentenced to 18 months 'were working undercover to protect drugs patents'

Detectives jailed in Cyprus claim they were set up

By Michael Theodoulou in Limassol and Daniel McGrory

TWO British private detectives who have helped international pharmaceutical companies to stop other firms copying their drugs were jailed for 18 months in Cyprus yesterday. They claimed that they had been set up.

Michael Flack, 52, and Paul Whybrow, 47, both former City of London detectives, looked shocked when they were sentenced in a Limassol court. As they were led away in handcuffs, Whybrow shouted: "This whole thing is a complete sham. It was a 100 per cent set-up.

"We were both duped into coming here by rich guys scared stiff their illegal activities of infringing international pharmaceutical patents were about to be exposed."

Their families, who had been told to expect them home today, said they were "devastated and disgusted" at the sentence. The judge said that it was meant to deter others from attempting similar undercover investigations into the island's drugs industry. Both men claimed afterwards that they had pleaded guilty to burglary only because Cypriot prosecutors promised they would be freed after already spending four months in custody.

The court had been told that the detectives had broken in to a warehouse to obtain documents they believed would show how two Cypriot companies were infringing the patents of leading Western pharmaceutical firms, by producing their version of antibiotics for sale in Asia and Africa.

The men's detective agency, Temple Associates of Bexley, southeast London, had been employed by leading pharmaceutical companies, including Bayer of Germany, the court was told.

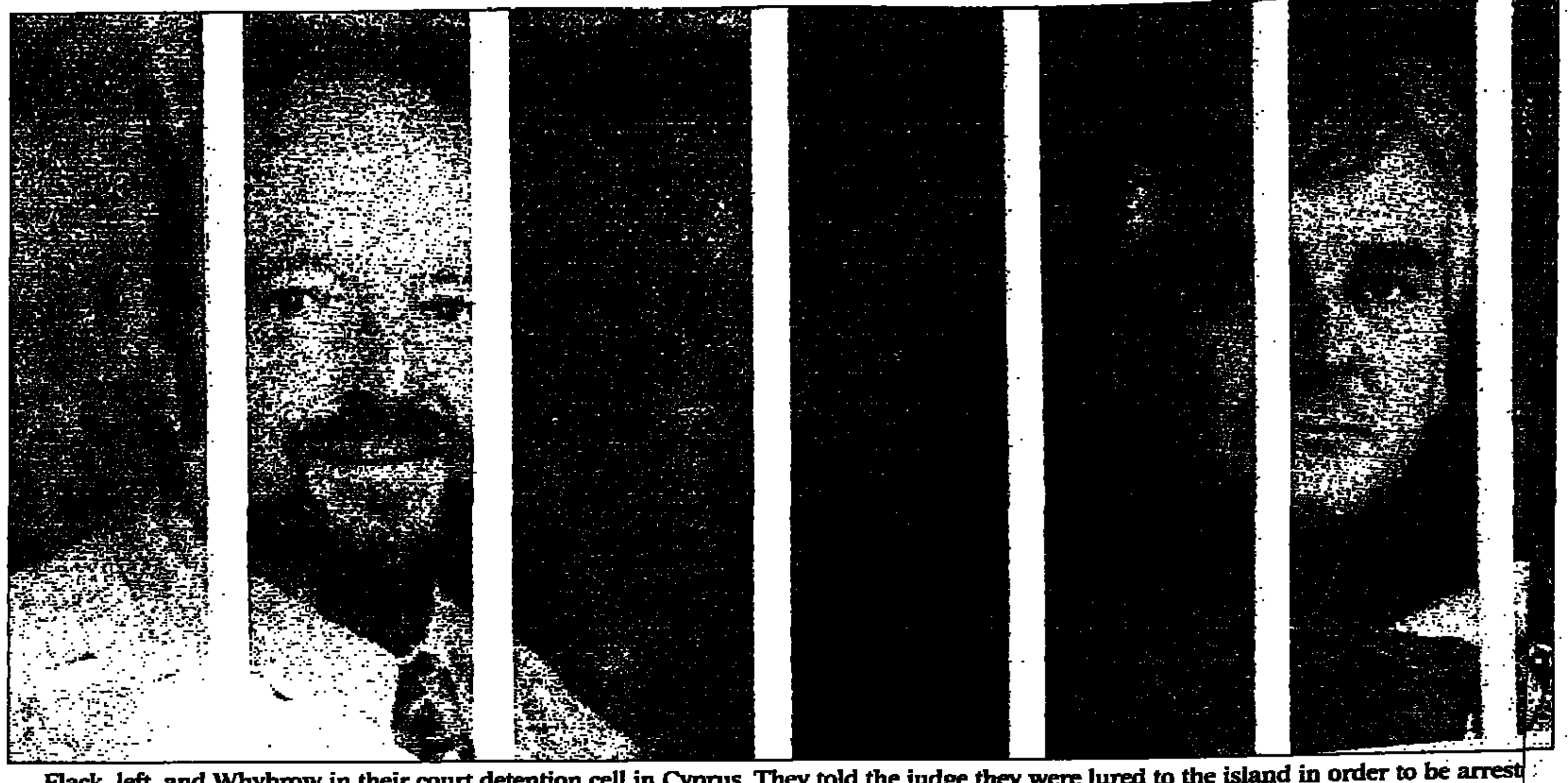
Nicos Clerides, for the defence, said that the set-up was launched in February a few days after the Britons had helped to win court injunctions in Cyprus against local firms. The following week, a Cypriot approached the detectives in London saying that he could provide them with more documentary proof of the pirate trade.

Mr Whybrow had told the court that their contact was "very knowledgeable" and persuaded them to travel to Cyprus. There, they were introduced to another man, who took them to a customs warehouse in Limassol. Mr Whybrow, who retired as a detective constable in 1992, said they were told they would not even have to break in, as a glass pane was missing in the main warehouse office. The two detectives waited outside and were handled a bundle of documents. Next day, Cypriot police arrested them at Larnaca Airport as they tried to leave the island.

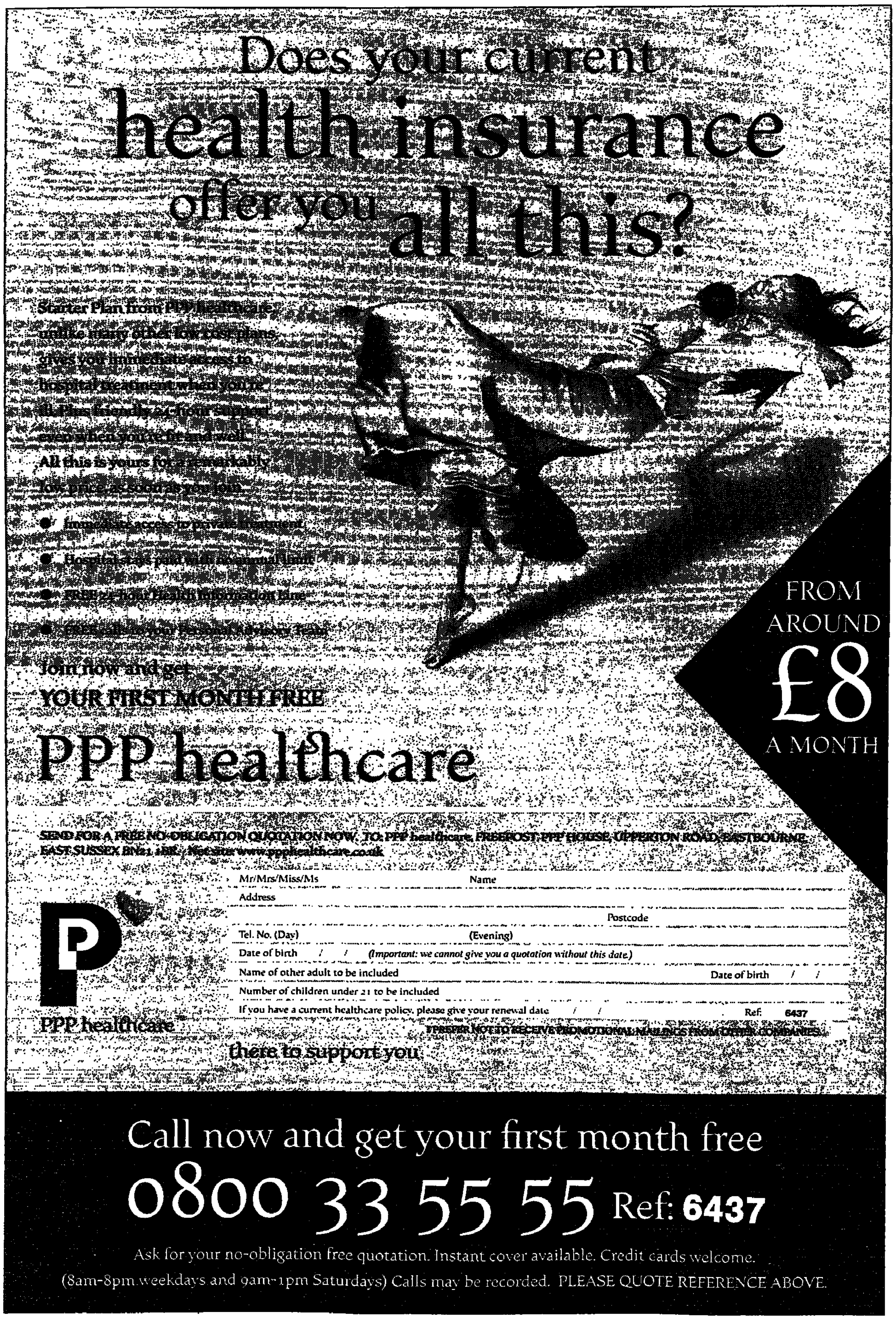
The court was told that the papers the men were handed were customs receipts relating to raw materials imported by a local pharmaceuticals firm. The judge, Akis Hajihambis, said the men were serving "the financial interests of their clients". Imprisonment was the only appropriate sentence, "especially in view of the need to deter others from committing similar offences". The Britons said they were not hired by a company for their Cyprus trip but had intended to pass any information to previous clients in dispute with Cypriot firms. Mr Clerides said that he would be launching an appeal.

Mr Flack's common-law wife, Mandy Birch, 39, of Bexley, said last night: "They were lured to Cyprus. hen they were arrested theyere accused of being spiend held in solitary confinent for 18 days. I don't knotow he will cope with prisonMr Whybrow's wife, Carovas not at her hom in Swanscombe, Kent, lasght.

MIKE THEODOU



Flack, left, and Whybrow in their court detention cell in Cyprus. They told the judge they were lured to the island in order to be arrest



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Protestant kille takes revenge o loyalist 'butche'

By Nicholas Watt
Chief Ireland Correspondent

ULSTER'S most notorious loyalist terrorist, who admitted murdering ten men in the late 1970s, was shot dead in Belfast yesterday in a revenge killing by a Protestant gunman.

Bobby "Basher" Bates, 48, a member of the Shankill Butchers' gang which killed Catholics and Protestants with knives and meat cleavers, was shot as he opened a loyalist advice centre in the Shankill area.

Loyalists immediately blamed the republican Irish National Liberation Army for the shooting and said that they would end their 32-month-old ceasefire in retaliation. However, the INLA denied any involvement and by last night it had become clear that a loyalist with a grudge had murdered Bates.

Loyalist sources, who accepted the INLA's denial, stressed that the shooting had not been sanctioned by any of the three main loyalist terrorist groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Ulster Defence Association or the Red Hand Commando. Security sources said the killing was likely to have been the result of a "personal grudge" by associates of one of Bates's five Protestant victims.

Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the UDA, said: "I hope that we can pull back this situation quickly. But the pressure on the loyalist ceasefire has been lifted."

Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, said: "I trust loyalists will maintain their ceasefire, a policy which has been appreciated by the people of Northern Ireland as politicians seek a way forward through dialogue."

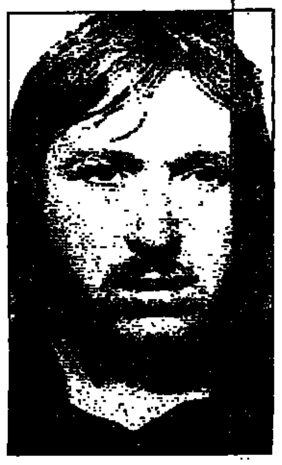
Bates, who was married with two children, was shot in the back of the head as he opened the Epic drop-entre at around 8.45am. A gman ran off into nearby Wivale Park.

Bates, who was give4 life sentences in 1979, habeen working at the drop-ientre since his release fromrison in October. He was eased early after he became born-again Christian and rented his killings.

He claimed that had severed his paramilitainks, although the advice cre is run by the Progressivenionist Party, the political ng of the UVF.

His release provol an outcry among the relaes of his victims, still hauid by the 19 murders carrieout by *the Shankill Butchers* bween 1975 and 1977. Six Ciolics were hacked to deatwith knives and meat cleave. The gang also killed fiverotestants, some deliberate and others after they were istaken for Catholics.

The murder was caed out just hours before theQueen and the Duke of Edburgh arrived in Northern Iand to visit a cross-comunity schools project in Dungannon, Co Tyroneand a garden party for 300ouples who, like them, are lebrating their golden edding anniversary.



Bates: murdered a Protestant gunm

The Queen at the Speedwell cross-communitproject

Ulster gives Quen a golden welcone

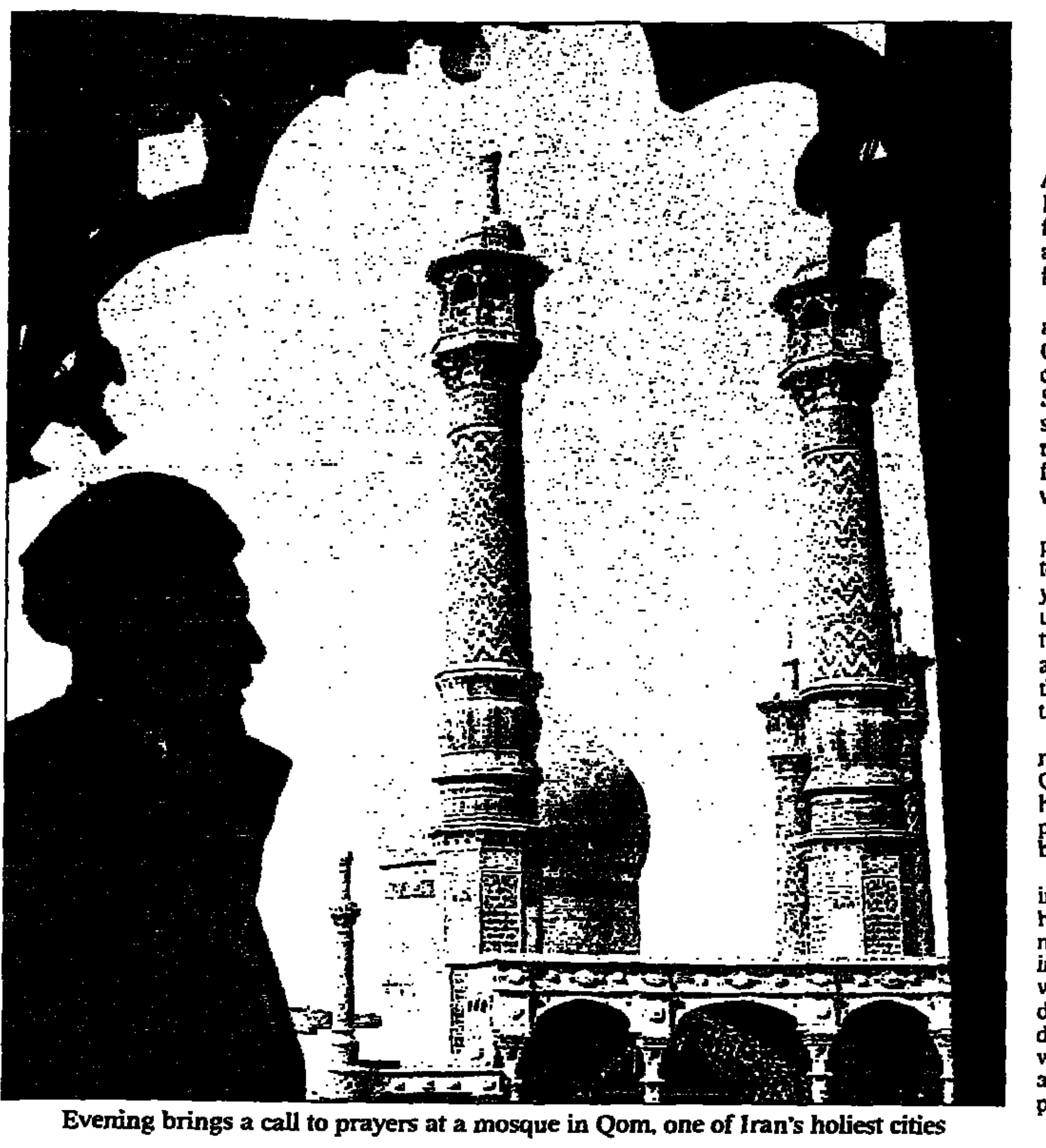
THE Queen flew to Northern Ireland yesterday for her first visit since the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire.

Despite a day of rain, thousands turned out to see her. About 2,500 people gathered at Hillsborough Castle for a garden party at which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh met couples who, like them, are celebrating their golden weddings this year. She also met volunteers from a wide range of community projects and planted a commemorative tree at the entrance to te castle grounds.

Earlier, the Qun visited a primary school in Dungannon, Co Tyrue, where the children are ivolved in a cross-commui scheme called the Speedell project. She was schedld to return home last nigt.

Her last vit in March 1995, was durig the IRA ceasefire. Yetrday's tour followed the muder of Bobby Bates, a leacng Loyalist, in West Belfastours before the Queen arivd.

مصورة من الاصل



Evening brings a call to prayers at a mosque in Qom, one of Iran's holiest cities

Strict lesson for Iran leader

Some see Iran's recent presidential election as a popular vote for change. But one of the country's senior spiritual leaders sounds a note of caution over the future, **Ross Dunn** reports from Qom

AFTER leaving my shoes at the door, I sit cross-legged on the carpeted floor, sipping tea and awaiting the arrival of one of the most influential figures in Iran.

A small group of us have gathered at a prominent theological centre in Qom, one of the nation's holiest cities. All rise when Makarem Shirazi, one of the Islamic republic's seven grand ayatollahs, enters the room. Wearing a white turban and fawn robes, he greets his male guests with a gentle handshake.

He sits on two floral-patterned pillows, a humble throne for the teacher who has spent most of his 70 years in intense pursuit of spiritual understanding. His works have been translated into several languages and are regarded as important for those who want to know more about the intricacies of Islam.

Iran's elected President, Muhammad Khatami, studied theology in Qom, but the ayatollah cannot recall him. There have been so many pupils, he says, his eyes peering from behind thick, black-rimmed glasses.

Regardless of whether the two met in the past, the ayatollah certainly has some lessons for the country's new President about the true meaning of the Constitution. After all, he was one of the men who drafted the document and his interpretation differs greatly from Mr Khatami, who said there was no legal barrier against women standing for the presidency.

Not so, says Ayatollah Shirazi. "There may be some women in Mr Khatami's Cabinet, but the Constitution does not allow a woman to become a President," he says. "We decided when drafting the Constitution that the men should become Presidents. Even in the United States, it has been proven that men are much better in practice in these roles than women."

No one mentions that there has never been a woman President in the US. Maybe that was his point.

His views can carry considerable weight in Iran, but not because he has been ordained for the task of spiritual guidance, in the manner of a priest in the Christian faith. Muslim clerics in Iran, at least initially, gain their authority through having followers, not from imposing themselves on the people. Their influence comes from being popular.

They are still referred to in the West as mullahs, a term which appears to have slipped from usage here because it is seen to have negative connotations. In Western thinking, the Muslim clerics represent a real obstacle to the liberalisation of Iranian society and greater openness to the world.

But while Ayatollah Shirazi's opposition to a woman President must suggest as much, his views on other issues are more progressive than one might expect.

For instance, he supports allowing a greater number of tourists to visit Iran, on condition that they respect the country's customs. He also expresses opposition to the actions of minor government officials who take the law into their own hands by entering homes to arrest people suspected of immoral behaviour.

Khatami: differences over political role for women

"Interfering with someone's private life is against the law, except for exceptional cases which might be threatening to society. Even then it would need a warrant from the judge," he says.

Many young people and women told foreign journalists that the recent presidential elections had effectively become a referendum for those demanding that the Government should stop interfering in their personal and social lives. Many wanted access to a wider range of books and films and more freedom to meet members of the opposite sex in public.

Considerable hope has been placed on Mr Khatami to start loosening the bonds and easing censorship.

But Ayatollah Shirazi rejects the notion that most young people and women voted for Mr Khatami as a protest against the order established by the Islamic revolution in 1979. He agrees, however, that there is a need to listen to the concerns of the younger generation.

"No doubt the participants had different motivations. Probably some were against the system, but we believe this is not true for the majority of them. I believe this election had different messages for us. One of them is the problems young people have in their lives, and we have to start solving those problems."

Taleban loses last town in northeast

From Reuter
in Pul-i-Khumri, Afghanistan

PUL-I-KHUMRI, the last important Taleban-held town in northeastern Afghanistan, fell to opposition forces yesterday, witnesses said.

They said opposition forces moved into Pul-i-Khumri, 112 miles southeast of Mazar-i-Sharif, at about 4am after the purist Islamic militia evacuated the town and headed for Baghlan, 19 miles to the north.

The Taleban had held Pul-i-Khumri for two weeks after a Taleban column moved north across the Hindu Kush. Soon after they crossed the mountains, opposition forces closed the main road linking Kabul to the north by capturing Jabal-os-Siraj, the southern gateway to the Salang Pass, leaving the Taleban garrison in Pul-i-Khumri surrounded.

Sayed Jafar Naderi, an opposition commander, said that he believed many of the stranded Taleban fighters had fled north towards Baghlan, but he expected Baghlan residents to disarm them and hand them over. "The Baghlanis say they have disarmed 4,000 men," he said.

He added that opposition forces had captured many Taleban prisoners, including 12 men he said were of Pakistani origin. He had no word on what had happened to Amir Khan Mutaqi, the Taleban Information Minister, who was leading the force.

Pul-i-Khumri was quiet yesterday morning, with few people on the streets. Some shops were open and there was no evidence of continuing fighting. The town's capture almost brings to a close the militia's disastrous foray into their opponents' northern strongholds that began more than two weeks ago.

Red Cross plan to screen aid groups

From Peter Capella in Geneva

THE International Red Cross is planning a form of quality control for international aid and relief agencies to cope with their booming numbers.

In its annual *World Disasters Report*, published today, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies argues that the move is necessary to convince donors to continue providing funds and to ensure that disaster victims receive aid.

The report says that funding for emergency assistance worldwide dropped from its peak of $3.4 billion (£2 billion) in 1994 to $3 billion in 1995. Yet the Red Cross is facing an increasing number of more complex emergencies, such as in Central Africa.

"Tomorrow's challenge for agencies is to maintain humanitarian values while making disaster response more efficient, effective and accountable," the reports says.

It estimates there are at least 28,900 international non-governmental organisations, run on a non-profit basis, and at least 50,000 agencies in developing countries.

"What you do have is a lot of small organisations coming in very rapidly and often leaving very rapidly, almost like flies around a honeypot. That can create some problems," Peter Walker, director of disaster response at the federation, said. "It's not enough just to have good PR and an Amex card."

A survey last year of 170 humanitarian groups operating in Rwanda found that one third did not appear to exist. The Red Cross believes $120 million of the $1.4 billion provided to help needy Rwandans may have disappeared.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

On the trail of the Korubo Amazons . . . making peaceful contact with one of the last undisturbed tribes on earth

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What was it like growing up the son of a Python . . ? Tom Palin and Michael Palin share Relative Values

THE TRUTH DIED WITH HER

JonBenét Ramsey took the strange world of tiny-tot beauty pageants by storm. Then the six-year-old baby-doll was found strangled in the basement of her home . . . The Sunday Times Magazine goes to Colorado to investigate a disturbing murder mystery

DON'T MISS THIS WEEKEND'S 96-PAGE SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE

Australia's stolen children were 'genocide' victims

A report on Aboriginal children torn from their tribes has caused a wave of shame, writes **Michael Binyon** in Sydney

THE forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their parents amounted to genocide, the judge who headed a commission into the "stolen generation" said.

The programme, which lasted from 1918 to the 1960s, fitted the legal definition of genocide. Sir Ronald Wilson, President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission, said. Australia would never be at peace with itself until it formally apologised for this crime.

"How can we celebrate our triumphs — Anzac Day or the Olympics — where there is a chapter in our history that is shameful?" Sir Ronald asked. "Without a proper response at all levels of Australian society I find it very difficult to see how a proper level of healing might be achieved."

His remarks are a direct challenge to John Howard, the Prime Minister, who has refused to issue a formal apology to the Aborigines on behalf of his Government.

Mr Howard, speaking to *The Times* yesterday, said it was "not appropriate" to ask one generation to accept responsibility for the wrongs committed by another generation. "Obviously, as a person I am sorry," he said. "These practices are now regarded as being quite unacceptable." But he said there was "something contradictory" between tendering a national unqualified apology and arguing that the Government was not going to pay compensation.

Sir Ronald is a distinguished former judge and Australian representative to the 1993 United Nations Human Rights conference. The investigation has horrified Australia with revelations of rape, child abuse, beatings and mental breakdown suffered by thousands of children who were wrenched from their tribes. However, Sir Ronald did not believe it was now possible or desirable to prosecute those responsible. "It worries me if people fix the healing of souls on retribution." He refused to assign guilt, saying the policy was well-intentioned, if misguided. It aimed to "solve" the Aboriginal problem by assimilating the young and allowing older Aborigines to die out.

"Missionaries were motivated by the belief that they had a God-given task to spread the Gospel and make little Christians of Aboriginal children."

Sir Ronald's report has provoked a wave of shame, embarrassment and controversy. However, polls show that a majority of Australians oppose a formal apology, which Sir Ronald called surprising and disappointing.

His report also urges the setting up of a national compensation fund, to which churches, state governments and individuals could contribute. He said this would avoid the pain of lawsuits, and make equal payments to all victims with extra money for those who suffered sexual or physical abuse.

Sir Ronald said his commission, set up by the previous Labor Government, had listened to 535 individual accounts from Aborigines who as children were placed in white homes, and had considered another 1,000 written reports.

Alec Kruger, taken from his mother at the age of three. Now he seeks damages

Exploited 'chattels' say nothing can make up for loss

From David Bentley
in Brisbane

EVEN as Australia's leaders weigh the legal and financial consequences of apologising to Aboriginal "stolen children", many Aborigines say no amount of money can compensate for the loss of family, culture and sense of belonging.

"I was taken from my people's land, from my dreaming and my culture," says Alec Kruger, 72, who was three when police snatched him from his mother. "If I had stayed, I would have been an elder now."

One of thousands of part-Aboriginal children seized earlier this century by social workers and missionaries in a drive to solve "the half-caste problem". Mr Kruger has sought damages in the High Court. If successful, his action will spawn similar suits from 600 claimants.

"Their idea was to remove part-Aborigines to force us to assimilate into white society," said Barbara Cummings, an Aboriginal activist. "It was legalised theft."

The "stolen children" chapter dates back to a 1918 ordinance empowering "protecters" to segregate children of mixed blood. Official logic ruled that the best hope for children of mixed parentage was "detribalisation". This meant indoctrinating children with Christianity and providing sufficient education to qualify them for domestic and stockmen's chores. It was hoped the shortage of white women would encourage white men to marry women of mixed blood. By slow degrees, dark-skinned people would be bred out.

Many of the older generation who gave up their lighter-skinned offspring now accuse the Government of hoodwinking them. In many cases, they say, social workers promised to return the children when they had been educated.

A few children were lucky enough to find their way into loving families. More often than not, however, mixed-blood foster children were treated as cheap domestic help.

Those responsible for placing half-caste children in government institutions say that the Northern Territory was a very different place during its frontier years. After 55 years of running Aboriginal missions on Bathurst and Melville islands, Brother John Pie defends his stewardship of "kidnapped" Aboriginal children. "In the Kimberley area, they not only killed half-caste babies, they ate them as well," he says.

Aboriginal girls, he says, lived in constant moral danger from wandering miners, stockmen and even police. Japanese pearling crews abducted them for sexual gratification, then threw them overboard. His claims are supported by Colin Macleod, a former welfare patrol officer. He says mixed-blood girls were treated as chattels — used for sex and traded for alcohol and cigarettes.

US arrears offer makes Europe pay more to UN

From James Bone in New York

THE Clinton Administration and Congress have struck a deal on American funding for the United Nations that will force Britain and other major contributors to pay a larger share of the UN budget.

The American package would repay £819 million (£500 million) of Washington's arrears to the UN over the next three years, but would be conditioned on a major cut in the rate of future US contributions. The agreement would require its payments to the UN's regular budget to be reduced from its current level of 25 per cent to 22 per cent within two years, and to be cut further to 20 per cent within the next year.

Any cut in US dues would force other major contributors, particularly European Union members and Japan, to make up the shortfall in the UN budget.

If the US proposal becomes law, the combined EU contribution to the UN regular budget would rise from its present 32 per cent to almost 40 per cent — or almost twice the level of the reduced American contribution. Britain, a permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council, would see a significant increase in its current share of 5.32 per cent of the UN's $1 billion-a-year budget.

A senior European diplomat complained yesterday that the American plan was being presented as a "take it or leave it offer" and would meet a frosty reception at the UN, where any change in financing technically requires approval by member states. "There are adverse consequences for us, which the Americans have not shown any consideration for," the diplomat said.

If the US unilaterally cuts its funding without approval of other members, Washington could lose its vote in the UN General Assembly by early next year under an article in the UN Charter that strips states that are two years in arrears of voting rights. Other UN members are also likely to call for a review of American perks at the UN, particularly the US quota of top jobs and the share of UN procurement that goes to American companies. The Security Council could also refuse to establish new UN peacekeeping operations sought by the United States, such as the UN mission in Haiti, unless Congress voted extra money.

The US funding deal, reached in budget negotiations between the Administration and Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate, contains a host of other provisions that are also certain to provoke hostility at the UN, where most diplomats see the US as an international deadbeat for failing to pay its legal dues.

Because Congress insists on deducting disputed sums from its UN dues, the proposed payment of $819 million falls far short of the $1.3 billion the UN says it is legally owed.

The proposal also requires the UN membership to recognise the unilateral cut Washington made in its contribution to the UN peacekeeping budget in 1994, which reduced its payments from 31 per cent to 25 per cent. Acceptance of this reduction, which has effectively blocked new UN peacekeeping, would again force Britain and other funders to increase their payments.

In a sop to right-wing Republicans who accuse the UN of undermining US sovereignty, the Administration would be required to certify that the UN had done nothing to undercut the US Constitution, to impose international taxes or to create a standing army.

US funding would also be conditioned on continuing efforts by the UN to limit its budget and to streamline its staff. The UN would also be required to open its books to the General Accounting Office, the budget watchdog of the US Congress.

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McVeigh parents plead for his life

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

An artist's sketch of McVeigh listening to a former army colleague's evidence

THE PARENTS of Timothy McVeigh, the mass murderer convicted of the Oklahoma City bombing, begged the jury in the sentencing hearing yesterday to spare their son's life as his defence brought its case to a close.

Even McVeigh, who showed no emotion during his trial, wiped a tear from an eye during his mother's evidence.

After last week's testimony from a prosecution intent on portraying McVeigh, 29, as having committed premeditated murder, the defence had called many friends, army colleagues and others in an attempt to portray the decorated Gulf War veteran as a typical boy next door.

The lawyers had saved the most compelling evidence until last, when Mildred Frazier and William McVeigh, his divorced parents, pleaded for mercy in sentencing after their son was convicted last week on 11 charges, including the murder of eight federal employees in the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City.

Choking back tears, Mrs Frazier, who left her husband when McVeigh was 16, described the defendant as a human being who deserved to live. "I still cannot believe to this day he could have caused this devastation," she said. "Yes, I am pleading for my son's life. He is a human being, as we all are. He is not the monster he has been portrayed as."

Her former husband narrated a 15-minute film of his son's childhood in Pendleton and Lockport, New York, a compilation of home videos of the young McVeigh as an average boy growing up in suburban America.

Jannie Coverdale, who lost two children in the bombing, said Mrs Frazier's words were very moving. "It was the first time I had seen Tim's mom, and it was the first time I had seen him show any emotion."

Closing arguments are set for today, when the same jury that convicted McVeigh will be asked to deliberate on whether he should be sentenced to life imprisonment or face death by lethal injection.

Despite the severity of the Oklahoma crime, in which 168 adults and children were killed and more than 500 injured, the defence hopes that its evidence will cause one juror to have qualms about sentencing McVeigh to death. A capital punishment decision must be unanimous.

In earlier evidence, the defence had tried to show that McVeigh had bombed the federal building on April 19, 1995, out of concern for what he perceived as a threat to his country, typified by the government raid on the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, two years earlier.

Man claims male colleagues were sex pests

New York: The United States Supreme Court will shortly consider its first "man-on-man" sexual harrassment suit (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The case, filed by Joseph Oncale, an oil-rig worker, raises a question still unresolved in America: does the law protect employees from harrassment by co-workers of the same sex? Mr Oncale alleges he was subjected to sexual harrassment and "a hostile work environment" by his supervisors. He claims that they often touched his private parts and even threatened him with rape. "I'm going to get you," one of them is said to have threatened.

The incidents forced Mr Oncale to resign from his job after only seven months. He sued the owners of the oil rig in the lower courts, all of which rejected his suit on the grounds that the harrasment law was intended only to cover cases where men harrassed women, and vice versa. The Supreme Court is his forum of last resort.

The Clinton Administration has urged the Supreme Court to rule for Mr Oncale.

Defence chief left isolated by gaffe

By Tom Rhodes

WILLIAM COHEN, the United States Defence Secretary, was struggling yesterday to find a new candidate to head America's armed services after an Air Force general withdrew from the race over an adulterous affair.

The departure of General Joseph Ralston after his admission last week of a year-long affair with a CIA employee 13 years ago, was the first crisis for Mr Cohen in his four-month tenure at the Pentagon, but could have further repercussions for him.

The token Republican in President Clinton's Cabinet, Mr Cohen has found himself marginalised. When he announced that he had drawn a line under sexual misconduct in the military but would support General Ralston the White House quickly played down its support for his candidacy as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

White House aides privately found it extraordinary that the Defence Secretary had backed the general in spite of other recent dismissals of military personnel for similar "crimes". Colleagues in Congress accused Mr Cohen of double standards.

The Pentagon is eager to find a new candidate for the post as fast as possible to neutralise any further criticism of Mr Cohen. But the appearent failure of his first big test in office has inspired questions about his ability to handle the job.

Leading article, page 23

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Dayan as 'seeker of peace' shakes Israel's legends

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

THE reported reluctance of Moshe Dayan, Defence Minister during the 1967 Six-Day War, to occupy Arab territories was reaffirmed this week by the former general who marched with him through the gates of Jerusalem's Old City, location of some of the world's holiest sites.

In a controversial interview to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the conflict that transformed the map of the Middle East, former General Uzi Narkiss said that at the height of the battle, while standing atop Mount Scopus overlooking the walled Old City, he told the late Dayan: "Moshe, now I need the political approval to forge ahead to the Old City."

As well as containing the Wailing Wall, the holiest Jewish site, the Old City of east Jerusalem includes Al Aqsa mosque, the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site where many Christians believe Jesus was crucified.

Mr Narkiss told Israel Radio that Dayan, one of Israel's most celebrated commanders, who died in 1981, had not expressed the enthusiasm for the conquest that has since been universally assumed. "He said: 'What do we need it for, this Vatican?' That's what he called it, the Vatican," Mr Narkiss added.

He also said that the swashbuckling Dayan, who lost his left eye fighting for the Allies against Vichy French forces in Lebanon in 1941, believed that the Old City — which is holy to Judaism, Christianity and Islam — should be an international city within Israel's borders. This view has been also confirmed by Yael, Dayan's politician daughter.

> ‘ He said: What do we need it for, this Vatican? That's what he called it, the Vatican ’

This reappraisal of conventional wisdom, provoked by the Narkiss interview, has great significance today because the question of sovereignty over the Old City is the most sensitive issue bedevilling the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. Last September when Israel opened an archaeological tunnel near the Temple Mount in the Old City it sparked a riot that left scores of people dead and about 1,500 injured.

Mr Narkiss's graphic, first-hand memories are among a series of recent disclosures that paint Dayan as a soldier who hoped to make peace with the Arabs, and smash a number of myths about the founding of the Jewish state. In the 1967 war, Israel destroyed the Jordanian, Syrian and Egyptian armies in a pre-emptive strike, capturing vast expanses of land from all three countries.

Mr Narkiss, a widely respected general, also confirmed claims made last month by Rami Tal, an Israeli journalist, that Dayan believed the Golan Heights, captured from Syria, was not a *strategic necessity*, as is claimed by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, but a playing card in peace negotiations.

Tal's revelation came from his notes from an interview with Dayan. The story was not published then because Dayan was planning to write his own memoirs, an event that did not materialise. About 60 per cent of Tal's interview remains unpublished because it deals with personal matters, such as the many women in Dayan's colourful life.

This week Mr Narkiss recalled: "We could have advanced to Damascus, because the Syrian Army was in such terrible shape, but Moshe wanted to stop the whole time." Tal has said that Dayan's greatest regrets were the capture of the Golan and allowing Jewish settlers to settle in the occupied West Bank and Hebron.

Yael Dayan, a leading opposition Labour Party MP, said that in June 1967 her father finally gave in to pressure and ordered the capture of the Old City.

That act is rated by many Jews as the most emotional event in the 49-year history of the state. What is not clear, however, is how long the final battle to wrest control of the Old City from the Jordanian Army was delayed because of the Defence Minister's doubts.

REUTER

General Uzi Narkiss, left, at the Old City with Moshe Dayan, centre, and Yitzhak Rabin

ANC woos Buthelezi with new powers in hope of burying past

Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi, seeking peace

From R.W. Johnson
in Johannesburg

THE outlines are becoming clear of an historic deal in South Africa which could at last heal the breach between President Mandela's ANC and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Potentially this is the best news the country has had in years, for a deal would not only bring peace to the province of KwaZulu/Natal but would also greatly consolidate the country's future stability. The effects on business confidence, property prices and financial markets are all likely to be dramatic if such a deal goes through.

Chief Buthelezi founded his Inkatha movement with the support of the ANC. But difficulties between the two movements grew in the late 1970s when the ANC had become committed to a revolutionary strategy of "people's war".

By the early 1980s a conflict between the ANC and Inkatha had become entrenched in KwaZulu/Natal in which more than 12,000 people have died. Violence continued after the 1994 elections which saw Chief Buthelezi enter the national Government as a junior partner to the ANC, while winning power in KwaZulu/Natal.

In the meantime, trouble has been expected as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission begins its work in the province. Inkatha has refused to cooperate with the commission, claiming that it is a partisan ANC body. Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, has taken the hint and recently made the first public admission that the ANC had once plotted Chief Buthelezi's assassination.

The deal now proposed has several elements. First, it will be agreed that the truth commission is not a suitable body to inquire into the violence in KwaZulu/Natal. Instead a new body with commissioners acceptable to both sides will be constituted and will meet only in camera. The commission will be told that it must accept the findings of this subsidiary body. Second, there will be an agreement that Chief Buthelezi is to become a Deputy President with Mr Mbeki. Third, there will be an agreement for a permanent Inkatha-ANC coalition government in KwaZulu/Natal.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Shark fishermen face export ban

Harare: A big step towards controlling commercial shark fishing was taken here yesterday at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species — Cites — (Jan Raath writes). A ban on exporting severely depleted species of shark may be imposed at the next Cites meeting.

The assembly of 139 countries backed a report by Traffic International, the Cites research adviser, which found that the fishing of some species was "unsustainable" and threatened their survival. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Traffic, and the Worldwide Fund for Nature, are to set up procedures to decide on the most endangered species and whether Cites rules that limit or outlaw international trading can apply to them. The report said up to 70 million sharks were killed each year.

Ship cargo fraudster jailed

Kiel: A German was convicted of being an accessory to murder and insurance fraud for his role in a freighter explosion 20 years ago that killed six of the 12-man crew. Hans Peter Daimler, 62, was jailed for 14 years for helping to plot fraud involving the cargo, which was falsely manifested at £12.5 million. He forged papers declaring that the freighter *Lucona* carried uranium processing equipment, when it carried outdated coal equipment. *(AP)*

Tamil attack leaves 250 dead

Colombo: Sri Lankan troops began clearing northern areas of the island after a large-scale attack by separatist Tamil guerrillas on the army's forward defences left more than 250 dead, the Defence Ministry said. A ministry statement said that more than 1,000 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels took part in the pre-dawn attack on Tuesday on the army's defences north of the government-held frontline town of Vavuniya, 135 miles north of Colombo. *(Reuter)*

Leader's helicopter attacked

Mount Hagen: A nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew came into force in Papua New Guinea yesterday in the run-up to the weekend elections after a candidate was shot dead and the helicopter of Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, was stoned in the troubled Highlands region. Sir Julius was some distance from the parked aircraft and was not hurt. *(AFP)*

Du Pont pays for crime

Media, Pennsylvania: John E. du Pont, right, was ordered to reimburse the US Government the $742,107.20 (£452,780.50) it spent to convict him of murdering David Schultz, an Olympic gold medal wrestler, in 1996. Du Pont, 58, the heir to a chemicals fortune, is serving a 13 to 30-year prison term after being found guilty of third-degree murder while mentally ill. *(AP)*

Volcano pets' sanctuary

Miami: Abandoned dogs and cats from the British island of Montserrat, plagued for two years by a volcano, will get a new life in America, the World Society for Protection of Animals said. It has arranged to take 17 pets to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where families will take them in. *(Reuter)*

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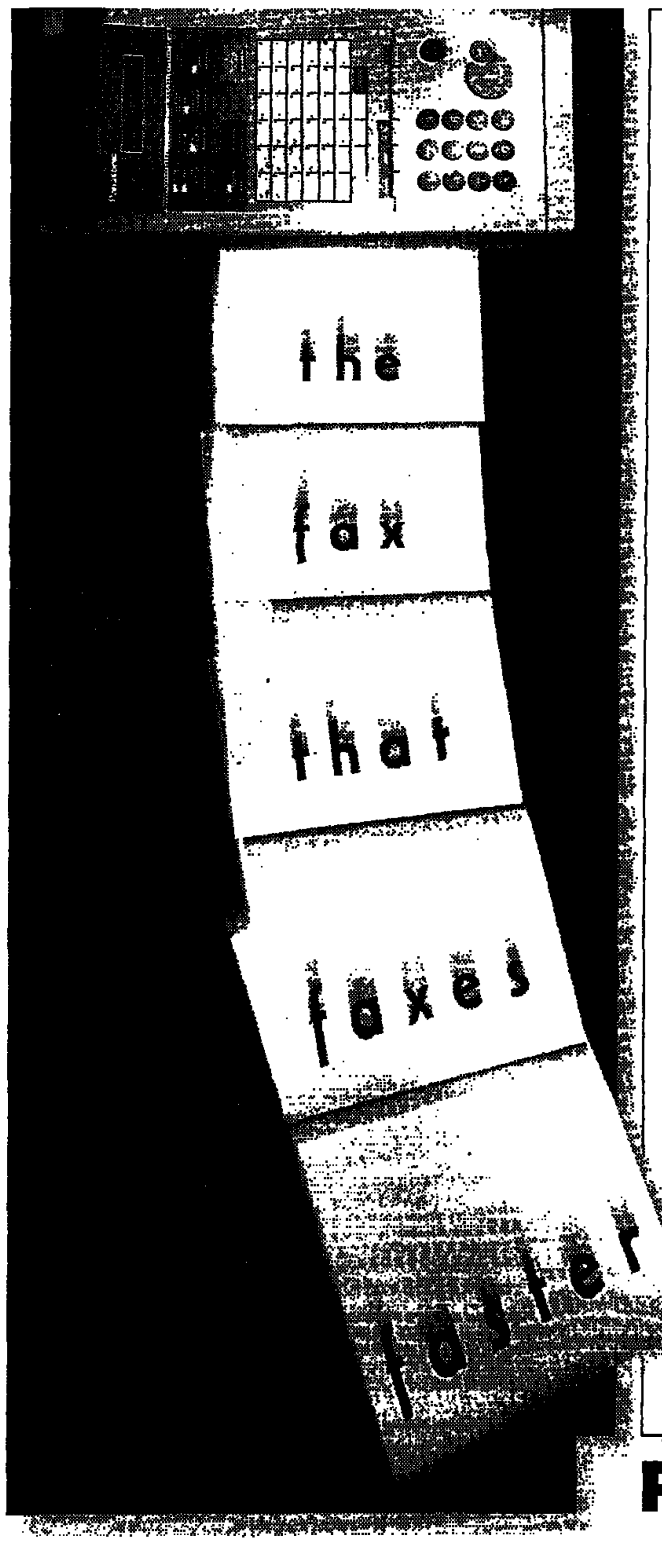

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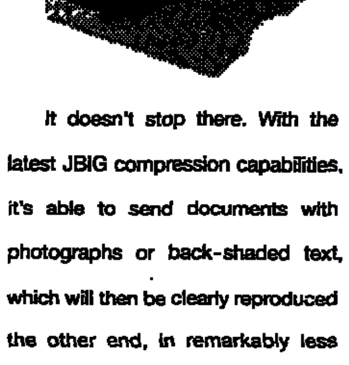

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Franco-German summit aims to ease euro's path

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Franco-German summit tomorrow is expected to ease the single currency back onto its launch rails and clear the way for a new Union treaty. Yesterday Bonn and Paris moved towards a compromise that will give the European Union more influence over policy on jobs and growth.

Germany dropped its long-standing objection to the inclusion of an "employment chapter" in the Maastricht Two treaty and the new French Socialist Government indicated that it could withdraw its block on the so-called monetary stability pact. France's sudden objection on Monday to the pact, which sets stern budgetary rules for the management of monetary union, had cast new doubts on the currency project and threatened to disrupt next week's Amsterdam EU summit to finish the new version of the Maastricht treaty.

As diplomats scrambled to produce a package to satisfy French monetary qualms, the Dutch presidency of the EU prepared to issue today a final draft of the new Union treaty for the leaders to complete in Amsterdam. Hammered out over the past 15 months, this still fails to satisfy Britain's demand for a guarantee on retaining control of its frontiers. With continental states increasingly irritated by the attitude of Britain's new Government, it will be left to Tony Blair to negotiate a final deal on border controls as part of an overall package at the Amsterdam summit.

A mutual desire to avert an EU crisis is expected to seal an understanding tomorrow on the machinery for managing monetary union when Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, meets President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the new Prime Minister, in Poitiers. "We are going to find a solution," Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, said yesterday. "If we can move forward quickly, it is obviously better. Nobody wants to drag things out."

On Monday, M Strauss-Kahn said no deal could be reached until June 19, when M Jospin presents his programme to parliament. Complicating tomorrow's session is the state of relations between the Gaullist President and the Socialist Prime Minister, whose electoral victory has undermined M Chirac's authority. The arrival of M Jospin has reinforced the split between Germany's desire for a monetary union based on fiscal rigour and France's wish for room for manoeuvre to favour economic growth.

Hans van Mierlo, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said he was confident that the French would allow the stability pact to be approved at Amsterdam, "but it is not in the bag yet". EU officials in Brussels said everything depended on M Jospin's believing that he had won enough to argue that he had fulfilled his campaign promises to win a more "humane" system for managing monetary union than the German-inspired stability pact.

Germany and the rest of the EU are trying to satisfy French demands for an "economic government" to promote growth and balance the monetary power of the future European central bank. They aim to answer French needs with new EU commitments to co-ordinating economic policy and promoting jobs in the employment chapter and in a new text attached to the separate stability pact.

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, is due in Paris today to smooth the way to an Amsterdam deal.

EU draft treaty gets a drubbing

Strasbourg: The European Parliament yesterday attacked a draft of a new European Union treaty due to be signed in Amsterdam next week, saying it failed to go far enough on key issues and failed to give the EU enough powers to take joint action on questions such as jobs, social concerns and foreign policy. *(Reuter)*

WOLFGANG RATTAY / REUTERS

Kohl go home!

A German policeman protesting in Bonn yesterday over cuts to meet EMU criteria

Kohl insists it is too late to stop the EMU clock

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, brushed aside a growing number of reports yesterday that Bonn was considering a one-year delay in the introduction of European economic and monetary union (EMU).

Declaring that the "clock cannot be stopped", Herr Kohl said that postponing the euro "would have catastrophic consequences for the German economy, for the labour market, for our currency and much else".

The German leader was speaking on television shortly after Klaus Kinkel, his Foreign Minister, outlined Bonn's position ahead of next week's European Union summit in Amsterdam.

"Anyone who pleads for delay," Herr Kinkel told parliament, "must know that he is inflicting substantial damage on our country. I doubt whether we will find the strength to make a second attempt."

Newspaper reports — echoing persistent rumours here — suggested that Bonn was working on a strategy of "controlled postponement", in part because of the new French Government's questioning of the stability pact which is supposed to guarantee fiscal discipline after the start of EMU.

The *Berliner Morgenpost* said the Government was preparing to postpone the euro start-up from 1999 to 2000, with formal conversion beginning on schedule in 2002. "We demand to know from Helmut Kohl — 'are you really committed to monetary union or do you want to put it off?'" asked Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, the Social Democrats' spokeswoman on Europe.

Herr Kohl laughed off the criticism. Although the possibility of delaying EMU has been whispered in Bonn, policy-making seems to be shifting towards a fudge of the criteria. Both Herr Kohl and Herr Kinkel fleetingly mentioned the strict Maastricht entry criteria yesterday, but moved on quickly to outline an elaborate picture of the calamity that would befall Europe and Germany without EMU.

Bernhard Friedmann, president of the European Audit Office, said aloud what most German politicians are thinking — that rigid commitment to a public deficit target of 3 per cent of gross domestic product was senseless. "The 3 per cent is open for interpretation. There is no natural law that says the euro will be stable at 2.9 per cent, but unstable at 3.1 per cent," he said.

Government and opposition parties have fallen quiet about the 3 per cent target over the past fortnight with the exception of the Christian Social Union, Herr Kohl's Bavarian ally, which is sticking firmly to its conviction that only 3 per cent is good enough. Since Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is chairman of the CSU, he has been thrust into an impossible position.

Leading article, page 23

Spain strikes first blow for animal rights

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

WITH its first court sentence for cruelty to animals, Spain has taken a step towards shedding its bloodthirsty reputation as a nation of animal-baiters.

A court in Cáceres, western Spain, this week found a farmer guilty of deliberately starving two dogs to death. The court said the farmer had broken a 1995 law which first made cruelty to animals a punishable offence in Spain.

Animal rights campaigners heralded the £100 fine as a small but significant victory in the battle to change Spanish attitudes to the suffering of animals. "This is a warning to people who think animals can be treated cruelly," the lawyer who prosecuted the case, said. "Things have changed."

Campaigners now hope that a number of animal cruelty cases that have shocked Spaniards in recent weeks will end up in the courts. At one fiesta last week youths in Villardefrades, near Valladolid, central Spain, forced pints of whisky down a cow's throat until it was so drunk it died of a heart attack.

In another incident, 24 greyhounds were found hanging from trees in Medina del Campo, also near Valladolid. Spanish peasants, who buy retired racing greyhounds for hunting, often dispose of them by hanging them live from trees. The cruel treatment meted out to animals first made headlines in Britain ten years ago when the *Daily Star* bought Blackie, a donkey nearly killed during Shrove Tuesday celebrations in Villanueva de la Vera, near Cáceres. The fiesta is still held, and every year the heaviest man in the village rides a donkey while it is beaten by other villagers.

A number of Spanish regional governments have in recent years introduced restrictions on the use of animals in fiestas. But the moves to impose a ban are fiercely resisted in rural areas where animal-baiting at festivals is deemed to be part of a centuries-old tradition.

Séguin set to lead Gaullists

Paris: Philippe Séguin, France's foremost Euro-sceptic, moved another step closer to seizing control of the Gaullist RPR party last night when Alain Juppé, former Prime Minister and party leader, announced he would not stand for re-election, effectively conceding the leadership to his rival (Susan Bell writes). M Séguin has enormous grassroots support in the party and it is now almost a foregone conclusion that he will succeed M Juppé.

Swiss find more war hoards

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

SWISS bankers have found more unclaimed accounts dating back to the Second World War which may include Holocaust victims' assets, it was confirmed yesterday.

Christoph Winzeler, the secretary of the Swiss Bankers' Association, said the finds were thought to be in addition to the 39 million Swiss francs (£16.5 million) that the banks discovered last year.

International Jewish groups have claimed repeatedly that billions of dollars of unclaimed Holocaust funds are being hoarded in vaults in Switzerland and have questioned the banks' credibility.

The New York Times reported that the banks last week told the Volcker Commission, set up by the Bankers' Association and Jewish groups to search of Holocaust assets, that they had found at least 1,000 wartime accounts belonging to foreigners, worth about $40 million (£25 million). The newspaper also quoted investigators as saying there were more than 15,000 other dormant wartime accounts belonging to Swiss.

After weeks of behind-the-scenes wrangling, the banks are preparing to comply with a government request to publish the names and numbers of all dormant accounts they hold. No date has been set, but the step means the Swiss will be bending their own banking secrecy laws. Investigators fear it will be nearly impossible to link deposits to their original owners.

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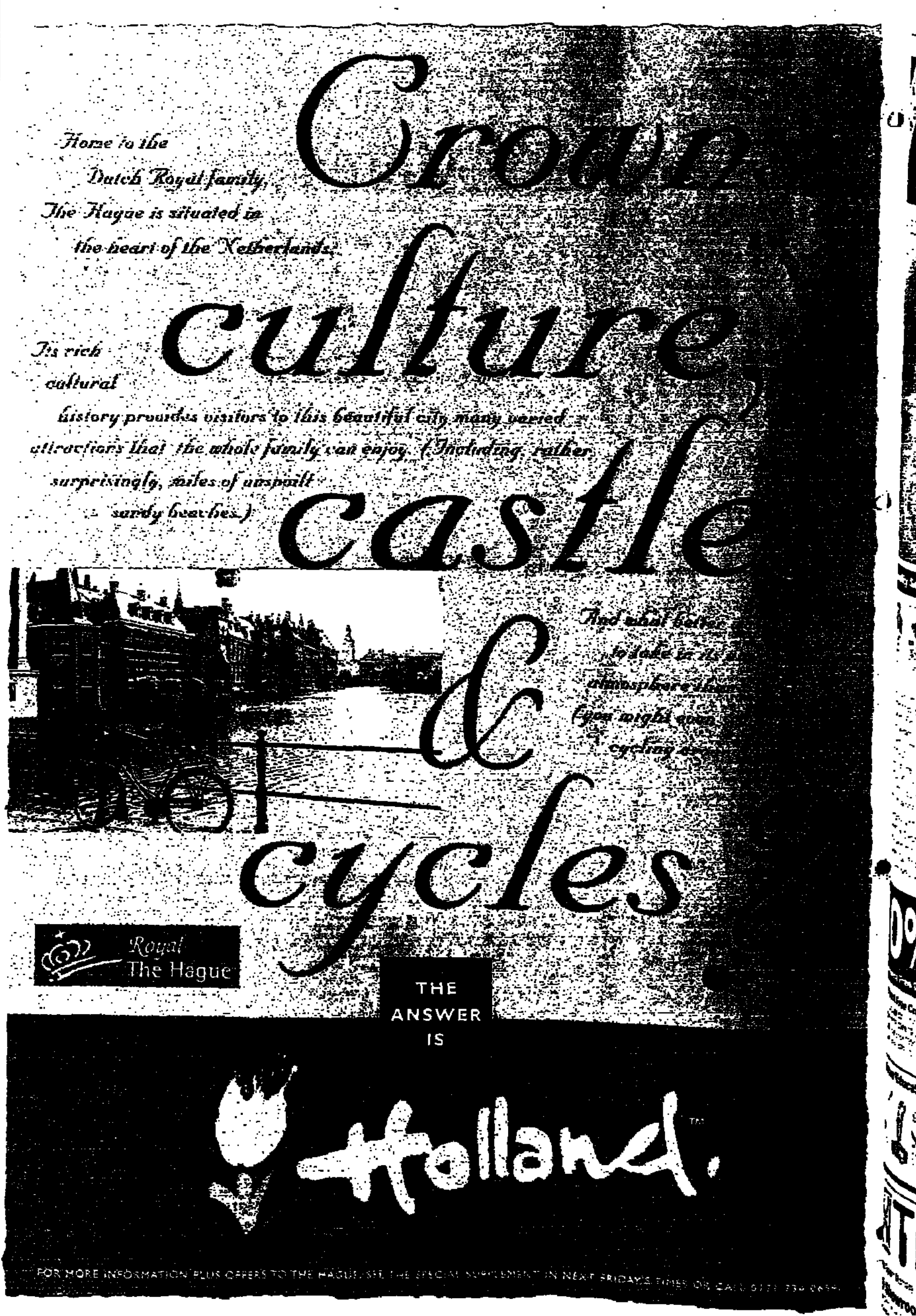
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هكذا من الاصل

Refugee fury over French 'meddling' in Congo conflict

By Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent

FRENCH nationals evacuated by Foreign Legionnaires from fighting in Brazzaville said they had left behind a city of "butchery" and devastation and criticised French diplomats for "meddling" in the politics of Congo Brazzaville and hampering rescue efforts.

Many of the evacuees who arrived in Paris yesterday said that they had stepped over bodies in Brazzaville's boulevards as they were whisked to safety by legionnaires and spoke of slaughter on the streets of the capital of this former French colony.

They said that diplomats and consular officials had endangered their lives, and those of the French soldiers, by playing at local politics instead of assisting the evacuation.

"They were totally disorganised and less interested in our safety than in playing a role in Congolese politics," one man said on arrival in Paris.

An aid worker who also fled the city said the buildings had been pounded with mortars and heavy artillery for nearly a week in fighting between the army and political militias in which one French soldier was killed and five others wounded. "The military losses suffered by the French were due to a lack of organisation between the military authorities and the French Foreign Ministry," he said.

The bitterness of the French refugees was a blow to President Chirac's efforts to improve his recent record in Africa after failures to further French interests in Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire, by offering to broker a ceasefire. The angry public statements of survivors from Brazzaville is likely to further embarrass M Chirac's officials who may face legal action from French nationals who said they would sue the Government for failing to help people in danger.

Their threat yesterday came as the faction known as the Cobras and government soldiers agreed to a temporary ceasefire which had been negotiated by a third faction leader, the head of the so-called Ninjas. President Lissouba yesterday announced that he was ordering an immediate ceasefire after meeting Bernard Kolelas, the Ninja leader and Mayor of Brazzaville, who then persuaded General Denis Sassou-Nguesso, a former President and the Cobra leader, to agree to stop fighting.

The Ninja leader had been behind an uprising in 1993 that left 2,000 dead and 200,000 homeless and later turned large areas of the capital into a personal fiefdom. Yesterday there were no reliable casualty figures from the week of fighting but evacuees said that many buildings had been destroyed, leaving the once-sleepy city "looking like Beirut".

Mr Kolelas called on French troops to police a ceasefire along with soldiers from all three factions as thousands of civilians flooded into the areas under his control to escape the fighting.

Mr Lissouba won general elections in 1992, ending years of military dictatorship under General Sassou-Nguesso who later accused the civilian leader of rigging the vote in his favour, sparking the 1993 bloodbath. Since then Congo Brazzaville has been teetering on the brink of civil war.

Yesterday Mr Kolelas warned: "If nobody takes the first step [towards a ceasefire] then the country is lost".

☐ **Paris:** France decided yesterday to send 400 more troops to Brazzaville to help with a possible evacuation of all French citizens, increasing the number of its troops to 1,250. France's forces have evacuated 1,778 foreigners, two-thirds of them French, from Brazzaville to nearby Gabon by air since Monday, a military spokesman said. About 1,000 have reached France. *(Reuter)*

ERIC GAILLARD / REUTER

French and Congolese take cover behind a wall as fighting continues near Brazzaville airport yesterday

Revenge call after Nigerian barrage

From Anthony Loyd in Freetown

NIGERIAN forces in Freetown killed at least five members of the Sierra Leone People's Army late on Tuesday after unleashing a barrage of mortar fire on a column of troops passing close to their base in the suburb of Lungi.

Coup leaders spent the day trying to maintain control of their fighters who vowed to take revenge for the attack, while hundreds more civilians fled the capital in expectation of worsening violence.

The incident was not part of an operation intended by either side, but more the product of the extreme tensions still present in the West African state whose President was ousted after a military coup two weeks ago. However, it temporarily derailed Freetown's attempts to return to normality and undermined an already strained ceasefire.

"It started as a misunderstanding, but it came at a very bad time," Captain Ture, a commander of the Revolutionary United Front, the RUF, said. "The Nigerians' response, 15 minutes of heavy, heavy fire, was totally disproportionate to what happened before. Now we have a big problem and a lot of soldiers want vengeance for this bad faith. We released over 300 Nigerian prisoners unharmed last week; now they kill our men without warning."

On Tuesday night a bus and a lorry crammed with RUF fighters heading for the centre of Freetown had approached the Nigerian base at Lungi. They passed unchallenged through two of their own checkpoints, but were stopped at a Nigerian post.

They were challenged by an officer and after a heated exchange someone fired a burst into the air. According to wounded survivors, the Nigerians then attacked the vehicles with automatic and mortar fire. The dead were still lying sprawled by the roadside yesterday morning.

☐ **Lagos:** Nigeria has sent two more naval ships to Sierra Leone. The frigate *Aradu*, flagship of the navy, and the fast attack boat *Ekpe* have left to join two other Nigerian naval ships off Sierra Leone. *(Reuter)*

Children to take back seat in safety drive

From Tunku Varadarajan in New York

CHILDREN below the age of 13 could soon be banned from travelling in the front seat of a car in America.

In an attempt to reduce the number of road deaths — more than 40,000 every year — the Federal Transport Safety Board has called on state legislators to force parents to seat all under-13s in the back of the car. There would be at least 10,000 fewer deaths each year, the board argued, if all children sat in the back seat and all adults wore their seat belts.

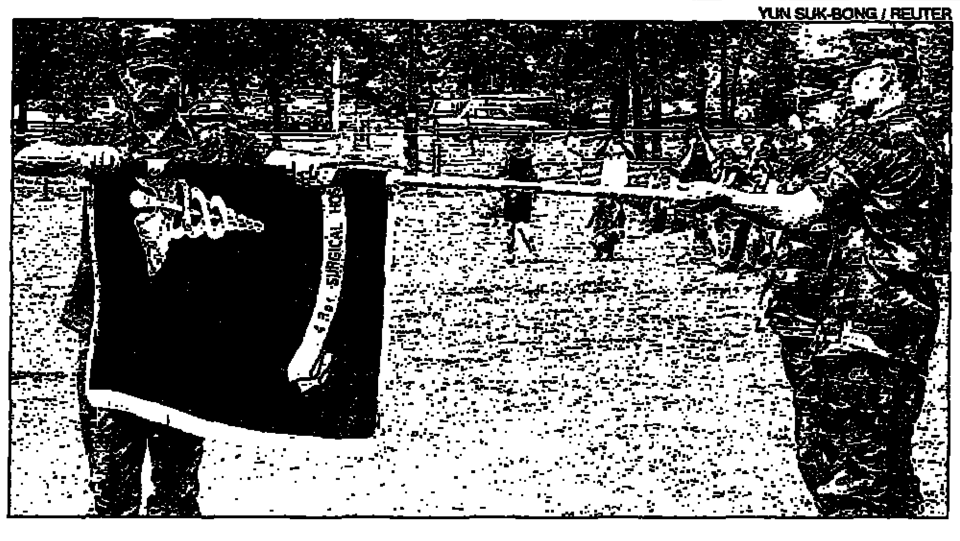
George Black, a board member, said: "We're having the equivalent of a Valujet every day in this country in terms of road fatalities." He was referring to an air disaster last year when a Valujet passenger plane crashed in the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people aboard.

Although highway safety laws are the prerogative of the states, the federal authorities are not expecting strong opposition to their child-safety proposal.

Acknowledging the power of Hollywood to shape public opinion, the transport safety board has also appealed to film-makers to show children always seated in the back of cars. James Hall, the board's chairman, told *The New York Times*: "We can change society's attitudes. It has been done before ... It used to be acceptable to drink and drive. Today it is not."

Although six European countries ban children in the front seat, Britain, as yet, has no restrictions.

YUN SUK-BONG / REUTER



Soldiers from America's last Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in South Korea furl their flag at Pyongtaek to mark the unit's closure yesterday. The film and television series *M*A*S*H* was based on the unit and some of the television cast attended the ceremony. Members of the audience at Camp Humphreys, 35 miles south of Seoul, wiped tears from their eyes as an army band played the theme tune from the show that immortalised wisecracking but dedicated doctors and nurses who served at the front lines in the 1950-53 Korean War. The MASH unit was among only four left in the world. They are being phased out to make way for what the military says will be a smaller, faster, more efficient medical group, called the Forward Surgical Team. *(AP)*

Last operation for MASH

Hong Kong officials accused over cover-up

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

THE highest levels of Hong Kong's Government were condemned yesterday for "misleading" citizens and the Legislative Council.

With less than three weeks to go before the handover of the colony to China, an all-party report by the council accuses the Government of encouraging senior officials to "tailor evidence". The criticism concerned last year's sudden departure of Laurence Leung, the Director of Immigration, a civil servant for 31 years who retired officially for "personal reasons".

In "the absence of a satisfactory explanation" for Mr Leung's departure, the council set up a select committee to investigate the affair. All senior officials interviewed insisted that Mr Leung went at his own request. But in January, Mr Leung appeared before the committee and in the words of Ip Kwok Him, its chairman, "turned the proceedings around by 180 degrees". Mr Leung claimed he had been offered either immediate retirement on full pension or a disciplinary action on unspecified charges. The Government immediately conceded that what Mr Leung said was true.

Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, said the seeming cover-up was because of the Government's concern for "confidentiality". The report accepted Ms Chan's explanation but insisted that officials must be "frank under oath".

Ms Chan yesterday declined to comment until she had read the report.

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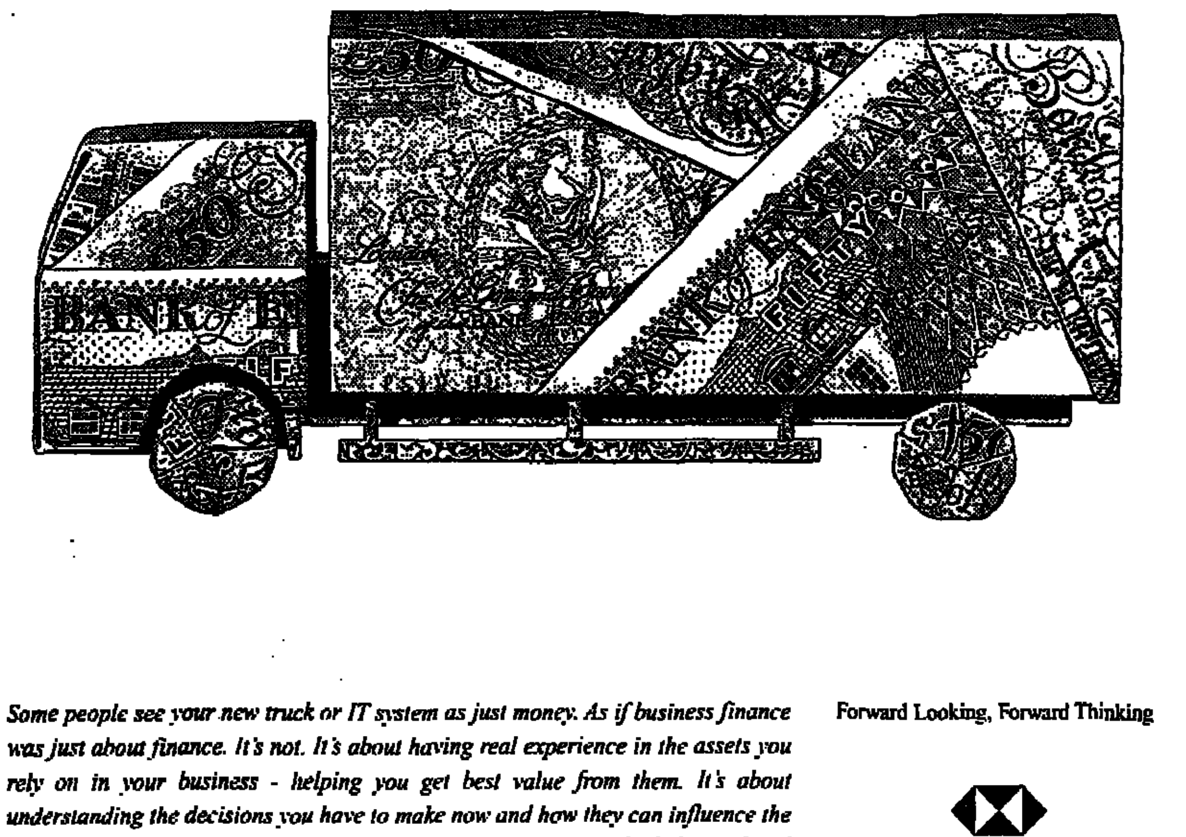

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Is this the end of ulcers?

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on peptic ulcers; diabetes; breast screening fears; hepatitis precautions; and a new cancer drug

GRANADA TELEVISION

The "delicate tummy" of Liz Dawn (seen here with Anita Carey in *Coronation Street)* is starring in a campaign about the treatment of peptic ulcers

Few peptic ulcers have been as well publicised as those of Liz Dawn, alias Vera Duckworth, the landlady of *Coronation Street's* Rovers Return.

Liz Dawn has allowed the British Digestive Foundation to use her case history as a means of publicising its campaign to ensure that patients receive the best possible treatment for peptic ulceration and allied conditions.

The therapy recommended by the foundation for gastric and duodenal ulcers — collectively known as peptic ulcers — would save the NHS £220 to £300 million over the next six years. Other treatments for peptic ulceration, which can be horrendously expensive, do not usually affect a cure but are designed to treat the symptoms.

The treatment regime is based on the research of two Australians, Dr Barry Marshall and Dr Robin Warren, in the early 1980s. They found that 90 per cent of peptic ulcers are the result of a small bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*, which can live for a lifetime in someone's upper gastrointestinal tract. Very recent research from Boston, Massachusetts, suggests that the bacterium may have originally been spread to the patient by the common house fly.

The *Helicobacter pylori* in the patient's stomach and duodenum causes intense inflammation, which can lead to actual ulceration associated with a worsening in the patient's symptoms. A course of antibiotics, taken together with a drug such as Losec, kills the bacteria and allows the ulcer to heal. Thereafter, the patients are spared the agonising upper abdominal pain which would previously have sent them rushing for indigestion medicine if they had drunk a pint too many at the Rovers Return.

Pain is not the only consequence of an undertreated ulcer. Duodenal ulcers are liable to bleed, particularly if they are chronic and have been present for any length of time so that scar tissue has formed. Both duodenal and gastric ulcers can perforate, causing an acute surgical emergency. Chronic gastric, but not duodenal, ulcers can also sometimes undergo malignant change. Ridding a patient's gastrointestinal tracts of *Helicobacter pylori* may therefore reduce the incidence of stomach cancer. It is also possible, but unproven, that the damage which the bacterium inflicts is not confined to the stomach and duodenum. There is some evidence that patients infected with *Helicobacter pylori* have a greater chance of suffering from coronary thrombosis.

The story of Liz Dawn's symptoms are of considerable clinical interest, because the initial diagnosis had been Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). She was prone to suffer abdominal pain and indigestion, associated with what she politely refers to as "a delicate tummy".

It is not always realised that inflammation in the upper intestinal tract, stomach or duodenum, can lead to a generalised hypersensitive gut, so that any undue tension, an unwisely rich or hurried meal, or too strong a cup of coffee or even a glass of port, can result in an undignified rush to the lavatory.

For many years the sensitivity of Liz's guts was attributed to IBS, and a factor in this was thought to be the pressure of being a public performer. No one considered the possibility that its irritability could have been the result of gastric ulceration secondary to infection with *Helicobacter pylori*.

Liz's true diagnosis was made only after her symptoms became dramatically worse while she was starring in a show at Scarborough. Her abdominal pain became very much more severe than usual, and, to her horror, was associated with blood-stained spit. The important question, which had to be answered urgently, was whether the blood had come from the stomach or had been coughed up from the lungs. Liz, a heavy smoker, feared the worst. Her doctors agreed that she should be admitted immediately to hospital so that lung cancer could be excluded.

An endoscopic examination of the stomach showed that the blood was coming from numerous shallow gastric ulcers. A week's course of two different antibiotics and Losec rid Liz Dawn of the pain which she had been suffering for years. When the pain went, so did all her other abdominal symptoms.

When such a dramatic recovery is possible in 95 per cent of cases of peptic ulceration — so that patients may be freed of the resulting dispepsia, upper abdominal discomfort, nausea and vomiting — it would be thought that most doctors would recommend this therapy. However, the foundation reports that only a quarter of the patients who would benefit from investigation for *Helicobacter pylori* and its eradication have received the appropriate treatment.

● *Among the leaflets produced by the British Digestive Foundation are ones on Helicobacter pylori, Indigestion and Irritable Bowel Syndrome. These are sent free of charge, but donations are gratefully received. Send a stamped addressed envelope to: The British Digestive Foundation, PO Box 251, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 6HG.*

New drug to help sufferers of diabetes II

Sir Harry Secombe is one of two million people in the United Kingdom with non-insulin dependent diabetes. These patients should be excited to hear that a new drug, troglitazone, embodying a revolutionary approach to their treatment, is on the stocks and has already been successfully launched in Japan and the United States. It is expected that troglitazone will be available in this country within a year.

Eighty per cent of all patients with diabetes have the variety of the disease known as non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, NIDDM, or diabetes type two. This usually affects people aged over 50 who have a family history of the disease but are often overweight and under-exercised. The symptoms start so insidiously that when a series of cases was reviewed in retrospect there was an amazing nine to 12-year interval between the patient first noticing the symptoms and the diagnosis being made.

Secombe: one of two million cases

The principle symptoms of NIDDM are tiredness, irritability, frequency of urination, tendency to develop thrush and other skin rashes in sweaty places, a proneness to infection and blurring of vision. If any of these symptoms has caused any doubt, a blood test will soon indicate whether further investigations are necessary. Testing urine for sugar is a useful screening device, but is a less accurate way of making a diagnosis.

Treatment of non-insulin dependent diabetes is usually initially by modification of the diet; by diet and oral hypoglycaemic agents (tablets or capsules) or, despite the name of the condition, insulin.

Present oral hypoglycaemic agents leave much to be desired, and even when allowance is being made for the problems caused by late diagnosis, it often fails to prevent the development of complications. Tragically, the diabetes is a factor in the cause of death in 75 per cent of patients who have the condition, and is thus one of the leading causes of death in the developed world.

NIDDM is thought to have it origins in many different factors, and may well be a cluster of conditions which give rise to a metabolic syndrome that includes increased resistance to insulin. This has the effect that there are larger quantities than normal of both insulin and sugar circulating in the blood. It is the high levels of these two substances, together with an upset of the fat metabolism, that leads to the increased incidence of coronary heart disease, strokes, gangrene, as well as eye and kidney troubles, in diabetic patients.

Troglitazone acts by reducing insulin resistance in the tissues, achieving a double whammy by lowering both the levels in the blood of insulin and glucose. Unlike the tablets now used to treat non-insulin dependent diabetes, it doesn't cause an increase in weight or result in hypoglycaemia, which can cause faintness, weakness and irritability if blood sugar levels fall too low.

Unlike non-insulin dependent diabetes, diabetes type one, insulin dependent diabetes, is essentially a disease of people usually under 35. Gary Mabbutt, for instance, the Tottenham Hotspur captain, has this type of diabetes and relies on insulin injections for his vigour, and even his life. Insulin dependent diabetes often starts in late adolescence and, contrary to popular belief, many of the patients with it were, like Gary, slim and athletic before its onset.

Treatment for insulin dependent diabetes, which accounts for 10 per cent of the cases of diabetes in Britain, must always be with appropriate doses of insulin. Troglitazone would not be of any help. This type is of acute onset and, untreated, the patient would lapse into coma and die.

Dobson's concern at breast screening

BREAST screening is such an important test that anything which undermines it needs, as Frank Dobson the Health Secretary has said, immediate investigation. Breast screening has two functions, as he explained to the House of Commons — first, to detect cancer of the breast, and secondly, to reassure those with normal breasts.

Mammography is improving, but the interpretation of the films has always required considerable skill, which can be learnt, and judgment, which to some extent can be encouraged. The training of radiologists, who make the diagnosis, the technique of the radiographers, who take the pictures, and the design of the equipment have all improved enormously. Accuracy is now achieved in a standard unit, which was formerly possible only in a few specialised centres, and stringent training programmes will help doctors to meet Mr Dobson's target. Having an earlier X-ray with which to compare a recent one is still of estimable value.

Cancer therapy hope

DEBBIE HOWELLS is disappointed that Taxol — one of the drugs which has prolonged, and possibly saved, her life and which is licensed in this country for immediate treatment for cancer of the ovary — has not been recommended for general use by the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The MRC announced recently that the trial into Taxol is to be continued for nine or ten months, after which they will recommend whether the increased life expectancy Taxol provides compensates for its side effects and its cost.

Mrs Howells has no doubts. Her view may contrast with that of 90 per cent of the senior health service managers who have recently been meeting in Cardiff. They admitted that in the hospitals where they work financial, rather than medical, considerations could determine a chosen line of treatment.

Mrs Howells married in June 1993 and she and her husband were keen to start a family. A year later, when still not pregnant, she went to see her doctor, but a laparoscopy showed that apparently her pelvis was healthy. Two-and-a-half years after her marriage she collapsed. A large ovarian cyst had ruptured. It was removed and found to be malignant. Mrs Howells attended the Marsden Hospital where Taxol, combined with two other chemotherapeutic agents, was immediately prescribed. She suffered temporary loss of her hair, transient damage to her immune system, and infected mouth and gums. Even so, Mrs Howells is glad to be alive. She hopes that others like her will be given the same opportunity.

Avoid hepatitis risk

JUSTIN WEBB, a *Breakfast News* presenter, is off soon to cover the handover of Hong Kong. He is accustomed to the risks faced by a foreign correspondent in war-torn countries, but before going to the Far East he has taken precautions against quite different dangers — hepatitis A and B. Thirty thousand UK visitors will be with Justin in Hong Kong; for many it will only be one stop in a longer Far Eastern trip. Dr Jane Zuckerman, head of the academic travel unit at the Royal Free Hospital, London, has warned that throughout the Far East hepatitis A and B are endemic: 90 per cent of the local population have had hepatitis A and 70-90 per cent hepatitis B. All travellers should follow Justin's lead and make certain they are protected against these two diseases before they visit areas where standards of sanitation are not as high as in the UK. Protection against both forms of hepatitis is now combined in the preparation Twin-Rix.

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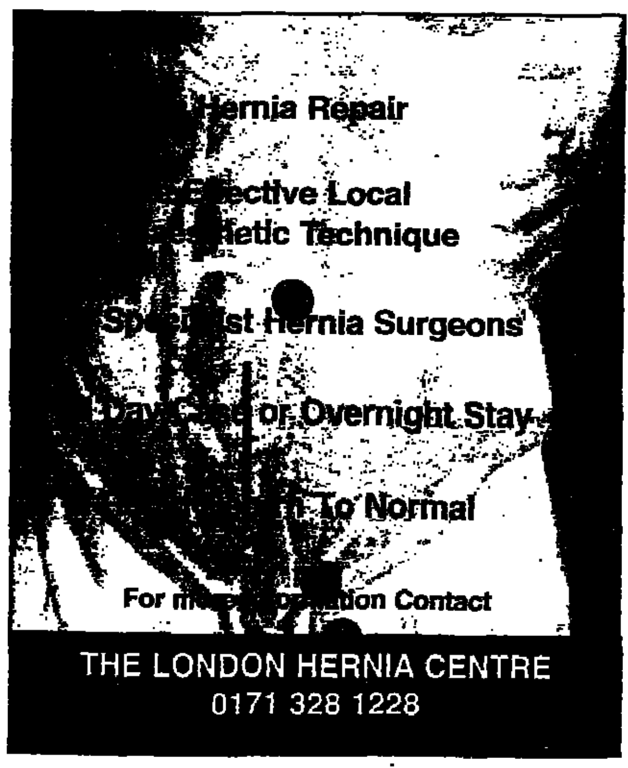

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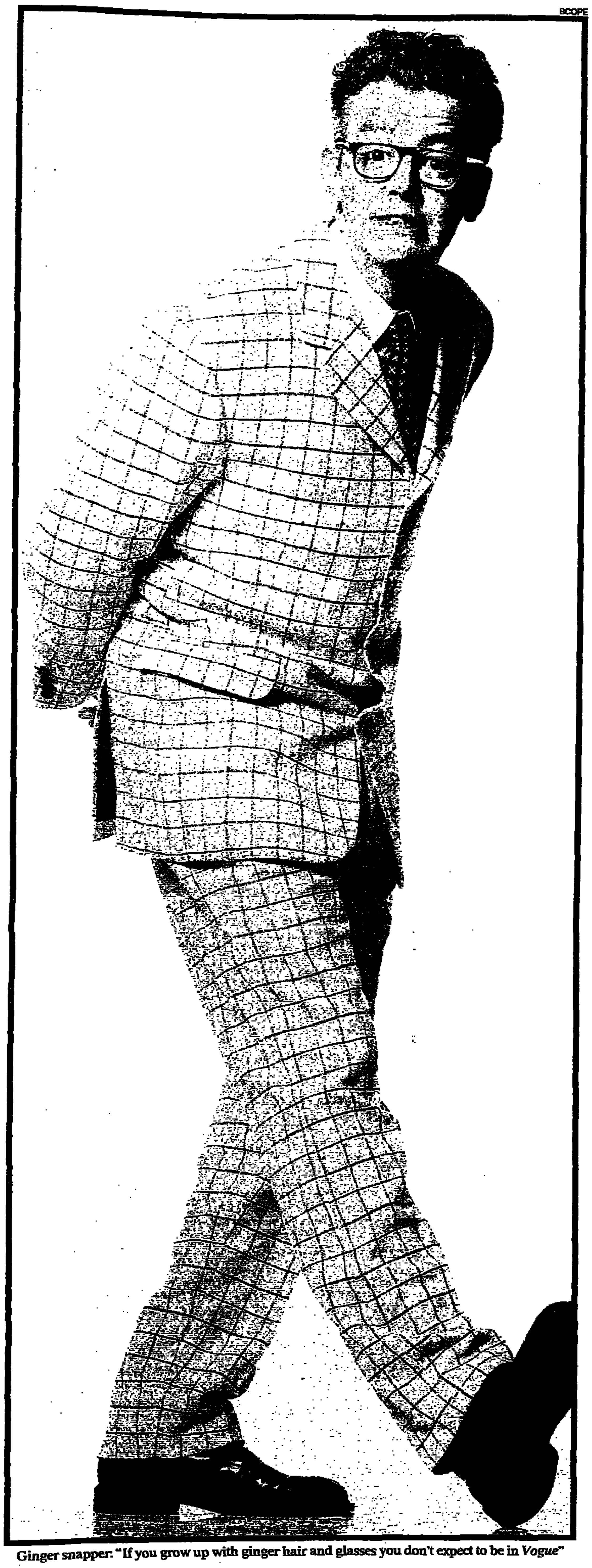
'I still want to be a fireman'

In his first interview since he walked out of Radio 1, Chris Evans talks to **Mariella Frostrup** about ambition and his father's death. And he cries

SCOPE



Ginger snapper: "If you grow up with ginger hair and glasses you don't expect to be in *Vogue*"

Chris Evans should be categorised as a class A substance. There's something dangerously addictive that flows from his pores and ensnares those near him. I know I should leave, but feel compelled to stay, even though his eyes are boring a hole in my chest and it's making me nervous. Images of dozens of blondes hurled by the wayside on his indefatigable rise to the top flash before me. And he's obviously the worse for wear.

But no, Chris Evans, superlad, friend of Gazza and carouser of some repute, is merely signalling to me that my shirt button has come undone and my custom-padded Wonderbra is exposed for all to see. "Don't tell anyone," he mumbles. "Me mates would kill me." He glances round furtively to make sure his act of chivalry has gone unnoticed, then reverts to form. "Fancy another Grolsch, Mazza?"

It's Friday night and I'm playing darts with television's bad-boy genius in his favourite north London pub. A surprising spot, you may think, to find a multi-millionaire whose show — *TFI Friday* — has just gone out live to three million viewers. But as I'm beginning to discover, Chris Evans, loved and loathed in equal measure, is full of surprises. Four hours earlier he was interviewing me on his show, now he wants me to return the favour. "Bailey's asked to photograph me for *Vogue*, will you do the interview?" He must be joking. Chris Evans hasn't done interviews since 1995. "Why now?" I ask. "If you grow up with ginger hair and glasses you don't expect to be in *Vogue*." It's a reason.

Two weeks and numerous suggested locations later — Capri, Loch Lomond, Kent? — we finally arrange to meet at my flat, 20ft from his own front door. He arrives and sits on my window ledge gazing out at the rooftop view of the capital. "This is fantastic," he whispers. It's in marked contrast to his loutish side, which the tabloids never tire of documenting.

To the outside world he's the fast-talking, flame-haired presenter who first captured the public's attention on Channel 4's groundbreaking *Big Breakfast*. Since then he's brought us a post-modern take on the game show with *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* and revitalised an ailing Radio 1 with his controversial breakfast show, both made by his own company, Ginger Productions. Nowadays his on-screen antics take place on *TFI Friday*, the music show he created in October 1995 and for which he left Radio 1 earlier this year. At this time it seemed that Chris had finally gone too far: demanding a four-day week so he could concentrate on *TFI Friday* and then petulantly walking out the minute he was turned down by Matthew Bannister, then head of Radio 1.

"The perception was that I was taking the pee because I'm a hard-nosed bastard out for everything he can get. It's not true. I didn't want to leave. It was just that because of the show my adrenalin peak every weekday would be 9am. Fridays were a marathon because I'd have to summon up all my reserves to do *TFI* in the evening. I was getting away with it and I'm a 150 per cent person; I didn't want to get away with it. So in July I asked for Fridays off, and again on two other occasions. Then, because of the Christmas break, I did a *TFI* without doing the radio show. It was a totally different experience. But Matthew Bannister just thought I was trying to put one over on him. I wasn't being lazy. I wanted to do a great four days on the radio, *and* a great TV show."

Surely he could see it from Bannister's point; what were his listeners supposed to do on Fridays? "In the States, loads of jocks do Mondays to Thursdays. It's a way of getting your weekend DJ known, by starting him on Fridays and the audience will befriend him and listen at the weekend. But Matthew was getting a lot of flak from the governors for what we did on the radio."

While complaints from the governors centred on the frequently salacious banter, it was his capacity for cruelty that took me by surprise; humiliating one of the team on air for fiddling his expenses and another by forcing her to admit she'd slept with him.

"I was playing with them. If you listen to a tape you'll hear that we were having a laugh. Look, the saddest moment for those people was when that radio show ended. So that tells you something about how much they enjoyed it. And they're still working for me now." As is his current girlfriend, Suzi Aplin, a producer on his show.

However much he protests, there is no question that he can be downright nasty — a fault he eventually concedes. "It's a see-red thing. It's not right and I shouldn't do it, but I do. These days I do it a lot less. I don't work as hard now, so I've got time to be nice to people."

As if to prove it, he leans over to light my cigarette and asks if he can remove his shoes. On Melody Radio in the background Billy Joel is claiming he's an innocent man and I'm discovering that the soft-spoken, inert figure on my sofa is a far cry from the Evans we've come to know. His halcyon period as the loveable loon of breakfast television didn't last long. More recently he's been painted as a megalomaniac bully, a drunken lout and a monster to work for; a favourite story is that he interviewed researchers naked in order to intimidate them. "That never happened and I'll give a million pounds to anyone who can prove it did. I was an employee of Planet 24 like everyone else, but I had strong opinions. I knew I was becoming unpopular, but I didn't care because it was about getting the job right. I may have sometimes done things in the wrong way, but I did them for the right reasons."

BIG PICTURES

Evans and Frostrup: "I should do more interviews, it's free therapy"

> 'Being nasty is a see-red thing. It's not right and I shouldn't do it, but I do. These days I do it a lot less'

The ginger hair and glasses have become his trademark, but as a kid growing up in Warrington, his looks couldn't have made life easy. Is there any connection between his reputation as a bully and what he suffered as a child? For someone who moments earlier couldn't stop talking, he is startlingly brief. I wade through a stream of "dunno", "didn't like it", "can't remember" and am just about to give up when a question on his early ambitions elicits a surprising response.

"All I ever wanted to be was a fireman. So when we were sent to the careers officer just before our O levels I walked in and said, 'I won't waste your time, cos I'm gonna be a fireman'. He said, 'OK, but just one thing … what are those things on your nose?'. I said, 'What?'. He said, 'Those things, what are they?'. I said, 'They're glasses'. And he said, 'How are you going to be a fireman?'."

As tears trickle down his cheeks, his body is motionless, but his hands are clenched. Embarrassed, I ask how it made him feel. "I was devastated. I still want to be a fireman 'cos I think they do a great job." I've located a box of tissues but the tears are drying up. "My mum was a nurse, my brother's a lecturer in psychiatrics, geriatrics, whatever-trics and my dad worked in a hospital too. I pushed old people around there, all 22 miles of corridors, and I thought, this is great but not my cup of tea. I've got to do something else like this because this is what it's all about."

Fate led him elsewhere; he left school to work in a newsagent. While battling with the logistics of delivering 3,500 newspapers he used to listen to a breakfast DJ whose main interest seemed to be where his next cup of coffee was coming from. "I thought, 'I want his job'." He achieved his goal and worked for Piccadilly Radio until the first of the showdowns which have punctuated his working life. I'm curious as to why, having got his dream job, he didn't seem to mind losing it. "I just don't have any fear. Danny Baker says my emotions are fireproof, and when you lose your Dad they just are."

Bette Midler is emoting from the radio and my guest with the fireproof emotions is crying softly as he remembers the death of his father from cancer, when he was just 14. Again, the tears tumble. I offer a tea break but no, he dabs his eyes and presses on.

"When someone you love dies you think hell, that's horrible; don't want any of that; better get on with it; didn't realise it could happen. And so you run and run and run, looking backwards to make sure you're getting further away, and then if you're not careful you've run so fast that you realise you're running away from his death, but towards your own."

He ran so fast that by the age of 26, after a plethora of short-lived jobs and a brief apprenticeship in local radio, he was the star of Channel 4's *Big Breakfast*. No wonder he now says of his achievements that "there is no emotion at all, no sense of adulation, no sense of anything". Chris Evans shut down the hatch to his heart at 14, that's why his emotional trip wires are all connected to the years that precede his father's death. It seems that no one has managed to prise it open since. But, as he says: "It's got me where I am. Otherwise I would have been swallowed by fear."

His problem is what to do next; he's all too aware of the pitfalls that fame can bring. "Normally you're still striving for your goals till you die. I've got everything and realised it's nothing. And I'm only 31."

He's amassed a fortune in the last five years and can't get it out of his pocket fast enough. On one night out with him, he buys a bottle of wine, fills his glass, and gives the rest away; pays a taxi driver £10 for a £4 fare; and hands £40 to a homeless man on Dean Street, with whom he's on first-name terms. Chris the benevolent, or just embarrassed about his luck?

"I'm not comfortable with my money. I only need a fiver for a pint of beer, a bag of crisps and packet of fags. You can only have so many houses and so many cars before you realise you only need one of everything. But all this amassing money is not my fault, it's because I've got a great agent."

Evans may have a great agent, but he's also a sharp businessman. He puts it down to his training at the newsagent and common sense. "Knowing what you want, knowing what you're prepared to sell yourself for, setting yourself a limit, not bluffing because if people call your bluff you're going to look like an idiot. Meaning what you say — that's really important."

The immediate future seems secure. He's just renewed his contract for *TFI Friday*, which he loves. Aside from that he sees his future role behind the camera. "I'm not a great presenter, but I think I'm a good producer." A golf show called *Tee-Time* will hit the screens in September and he's also working on producing a three-hour documentary, *The History of Modelling*, to be directed by David Bailey.

As for his spare time, playmates such as Gazza may find themselves drinking alone. "I read books now. I started last year, as a new year's resolution: play the piano, learn to cook, a new dish every week, and read a book a month. I've only kept up with the books. I'd even like to write one."

For the first time this afternoon Chris sits up, sensing that we're on the home run. His relief is palpable. I ask him where he sees himself in ten years' time. "I really don't know, Mazza. I don't aspire to anything professionally any more. Personally I do. I aspire to be happy. I want to make the three programmes we've got booked, but beyond that I've got no idea. You feel a bit lost, but it's not scary."

The sun is setting and I'm wondering whether to reach for the Kleenex again when he surprises me with a big bright gap-toothed smile. "Let's have that cup of tea. That was all right wasn't it? I should do more interviews, it's like free therapy."

This article has been abridged from an interview that will appear in the July issue of Vogue, out on Monday

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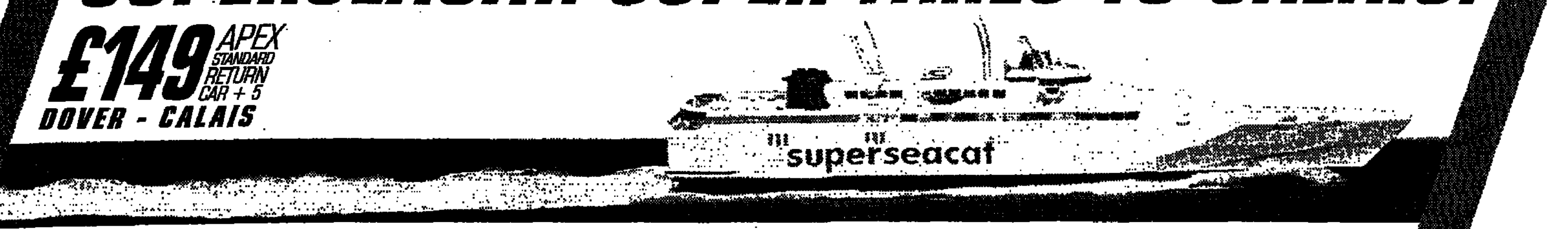

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Changing nannies at Number Ten

Downing Street isn't winning all the battles, says **Sue Cameron**

Labour's first 40 days in power have been marked by an imperious presidential style that is making itself felt in Whitehall at every level. Even the Downing Street doormen have been commandeered by Cherie Blair's nanny to hump the family shopping upstairs.

Downing Street doorkeepers are helpful, courteous men, who would not dream of saying no to a harassed nanny when she drops off the shopping at the door of No 10. Yet they are civil servants, and the Civil Service likes to be clear about who does what. It makes life easier for everyone if there is no confusion about roles in a small house that is both the office and the residence of the Prime Minister.

The story of the doormen and the upstairs nanny serves as a parable for what is happening downstairs at No 10, where senior civil servants are having to cope with the nannies of the Labour Party. Yet, just as Labour's centralising inner circle at No 10 seems poised to tighten its grip on the government machine, there are signs that Tony Blair and his lieutenants are having to slacken off. The movement may be minimal, but it has great significance for the Civil Service's traditions of neutrality and public service.

Already there are signs of the Blair team backing off

Downing Street is already facing a number of setbacks. The most humiliating is its failure to find anyone to head the No 10 Policy Unit. Why are top names in business and Whitehall turning down a job at the very heart of the Government?

At the same time, Mr Blair's aides have had to abandon plans to replace a politically neutral civil servant with a Labour Party appointee — Jonathan Powell — in the key post of Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, No 10's role in the row over pay rises at Camelot, and in the decision to railroad the Education Bill through the Commons, has brought further embarrassment.

The unfilled post at the policy unit is providing a particular problem. Neither Bob Ayling, the head of British Airways, nor Adair Turner, of the Confederation of British Industry, wanted it. Both men must have wondered how much influence they would have in the new-style Downing Street.

Mr Blair then wondered about a top civil servant — a move that might calm worries about officials being elbowed aside by political appointees. Rachel Lomax, from the Welsh Office, was approached. She, too, said no. It is hard to lead the unit without looking politically committed, which could prevent Mrs Lomax getting the job she really wants — that of Permanent Secretary at the Treasury.

The hand of Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, can be seen in the Powell and Lomax decisions. Mrs Lomax will have discussed career moves with him and he has his say on appointments at No 10. Not that Sir Robin has exactly started a fightback. Relations between him and Mr Blair are good and do not involve confrontations. Mr Powell retains a key role. Yet the principle that the senior Private Secretary in No 10 should be a politically neutral civil servant, not a party appointee, has been maintained.

Labour spin doctors have been putting it about that the furore over politicising the Civil Service is much ado about little. They point out that previous Governments appointed political advisers and that some of Margaret Thatcher's officials showed her a personal loyalty above the call of duty. They add that between 1939 and 1945 many outsiders were drafted into Whitehall.

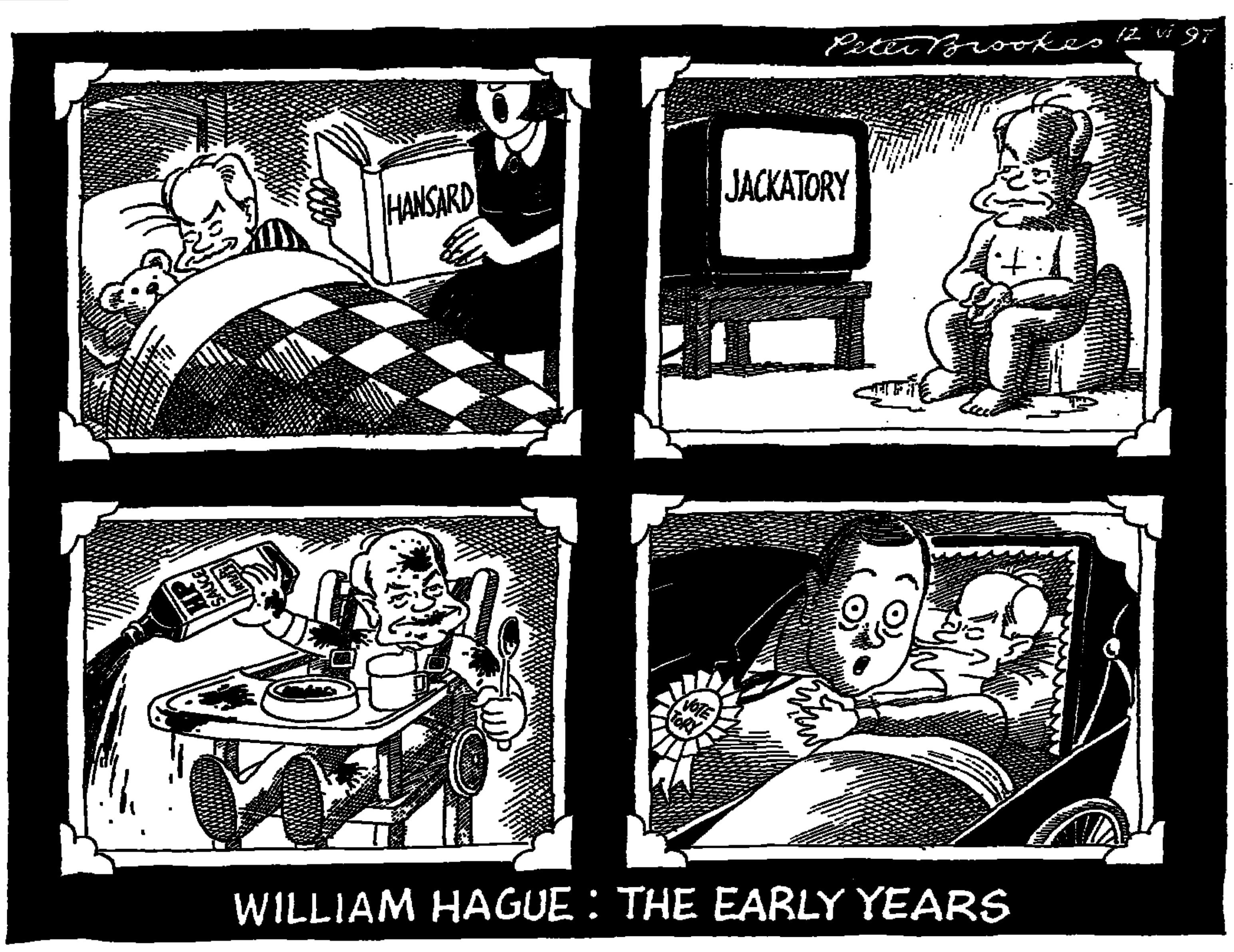
All of which is true. Yet those joining Whitehall in the 1940s did so to help Britain win the war — not to help a political party win the next election. Today the line between those whose chief duty is to the public interest and those who put party loyalties first should not be blurred — for instance by using the Privy Council to grant party placemen the right to give orders to regular civil servants.

Tales of how No 10 is trying to exert control over the rest of Whitehall are reminiscent of the general election, when Labour spin doctors at party headquarters called the shots. The word is that it was No 10 which insisted on Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, taking a bruising line over pay with the directors of Camelot. Left to his own devices, Mr Smith would — it is claimed — have taken a more moderate approach, knowing that he had no powers to compel the directors to give up their bonuses. Whoever was to blame, the incident raised questions in the minds of other businessmen about arbitrary government.

Political gossip suggests Whitehall's lone representative at Westminster is feeling the effects of the new regime. Murdo Maclean, the Civil Service "fixer" who helps the Government to do deals with Opposition parties on Commons business, is said to be finding that his phone does not ring as often as it did.

Had the Government been more sensitive to his advice, it might not have had to abandon plans to drive through its Education Bill in only two days. Angry Tories did not know the half of it. The original plan was to take all stages of the Bill on the floor of the House in a single day — a move that would have made amendments almost impossible. The public climbdown only delayed the Bill's passage, but gave the impression of a Government in too much of a hurry.

Yet the No 10 strategists know they must move swiftly, while the style and pattern of the new Government are still in the meltingpot. Soon everything will start to solidify, and by then it may be too late. That is why the small setbacks of the centralisers do matter.



WILLIAM HAGUE : THE EARLY YEARS

The Oxbridge vote race

William Hague's impending success tells us much about British culture

William Rees-Mogg

Tuesday was a shocking night for what used to be called the Cambridge Mafia. They had three candidates for the Tory leadership in the last five: two of them, Peter Lilley and Michael Howard, have now withdrawn, while Kenneth Clarke, despite coming top on the first ballot, seems to have fallen short of the vote needed to be the eventual winner.

Since the Second World War, Oxford has dominated the leadership of both main parties. Each side has had seven party leaders: the Conservatives are about to elect their eighth. Labour has had five Oxford graduates, one from University College Cardiff, and one non-graduate. Labour has never been led by a Cambridge graduate: the last Conservative leader from Cambridge was Stanley Baldwin, who retired 60 years ago.

The Conservatives have also had five Oxford leaders and two non-graduates, Winston Churchill and John Major. One Oxford college, Balliol, has produced three party leaders out of the 14, while Christ Church and University College have produced two each. There have been three old Etonians, all Conservative. Two Oxford leaders have been particularly successful at winning general elections: Harold Wilson won four and lost one; Margaret Thatcher won three and never lost one.

On the six occasions when an Oxford party leader has fought a general election against a non-Oxford leader, Oxford has won five times: the exception is Winston Churchill's defeat of Clement Attlee in 1951. Altogether, Oxford leaders have won 13 postwar elections: non-Oxford leaders won only twice, in 1951 and 1992. Etonian leaders won in 1955 and 1959, but lost in 1964. The most successful Oxford college has been University, which has won six of the 15 postwar elections, though four of them by very narrow margins.

Two of the final three candidates for the Conservative leadership, William Hague and John Redwood, went to the same Oxford college, Magdalen. Both of them gained a first class degree. Redwood is academically the more distinguished: he went on to win a fellowship at All Souls.

The arithmetic suggests that Hague is likely to be the eventual winner. He needs only 14 more votes to be sure of a place in the final run off, and Peter Lilley and Michael Howard have already guaranteed him their two.

In a final round between Hague and Clarke, Hague is likely to get the majority of the votes cast on the first ballot for Redwood, Lilley and Howard. If, which is less likely, the final round is between Hague and Redwood, Hague is likely to get most of the votes cast on the first ballot for Clarke.

William Hague is not in an impregnable position, but he is in a very strong one. There are a number of good arguments in his favour. He is the new generation: he was born in March, 1961, when the young Tony Blair was already coming up to the advanced age of eight, and was either a chorister or about to become a chorister, at Durham Choir School. I am never quite sure about the argument for youth — many statesman have been at their best in old age. Nevertheless, Hague's youth should help him to relate to the younger half of the electorate, even though he is not regarded as "cool".

By an odd coincidence, Hague's parents, like those of President Clinton, named him William Jefferson. I am a believer in the influence of names, and Jefferson is not only a name, it is a political definition. If Jefferson himself were a candidate for the Conservative leadership, one could support him with enthusiasm. I doubt whether the 164 Tory MPs would choose Bill Clinton.

One of the strongest arguments for Hague is that he has retained a good deal of the personality of a Northerner. The Conservative Party had a disastrous election outside their heartland in the southern shires. They did not win a single seat in Scotland, in Wales, or in most of the big cities of England. Hague is a Yorkshireman sitting for a Yorkshire seat. Tony Blair is also partly a Northerner and partly Scottish by upbringing, but to the people of the North he seems to belong to the southern culture in a way that Hague does not. If the Conservative Party is to win back the lost regions, William Hague has a good regional basis from which to do it, as indeed would the Midland-based Kenneth Clarke.

The Conservative Members of Parliament who have been voting for Hague include a contemporary of mine, Sir Peter Tapsell. He is, in my view, the most impressive of the senior backbenchers who happen never to have held office. Indeed, had his career worked out a little differently 20 years ago, he could well himself have become leader of the Conservative Party. I am impressed by the number of experienced judges who have come to believe in Hague's ability to handle the top job in his party, even though I have not seen him in action often enough to have formed a strong opinion myself.

Perhaps the best placed of these judges is John Major. He promoted Hague into the new Cabinet because he thought he was exceptionally able. From an early stage in his parliamentary career, Major saw him as someone who might eventually become the leader of his party. I should be rather surprised if the vote which Major has rightly kept as confidential had not been cast for Hague.

There is also the argument for party unity. Of the five candidates for the party leadership on the first ballot only two, William Hague and Peter Lilley, were in a good position to unite the party. Kenneth Clarke, John Redwood — who has handled his campaign very well — and Michael Howard all had irreconcilable enemies. Hague and Lilley did not.

My own sympathies were for Peter Lilley — I shared the judgment of those who voted for him on the first ballot — but his best role in Opposition could well be that of Rab Butler after 1945, or Keith Joseph after 1975, the chief of policy-making. Hague can also bring John Redwood back into the Conservative Shadow Cabinet, which would be difficult for Clarke to do.

Kenneth Clarke undoubtedly stands outside the mainstream of the party on the issues of Europe. I think he is also too much a man of the Sixties or early Seventies in his ideas. He does have the largest body of support among active Conservatives in the country. But there has been no adequate national debate on Conservative policy. I suspect such a debate would have produced a national balance in the party closer to that among Tory MPs. In such debate as there was, John Redwood did particularly well; he has a very good mind, and he thoroughly earned his top placing on the Right.

One of the lessons of the Blair campaign is that elections are cultural and not intellectual events. That, I suspect, is why Oxford beats Cambridge even more regularly at Westminster than it loses at Mortlake. Oxford is the cultural and Cambridge is the intellectual university. Elections are decided by feelings, mood, passions, sympathy, fashions and style, rather than by the logic of the political debate.

Blair wooed the electorate; we were the Juliet and he was our Romeo. I am not sure that William Hague is as charming as Tony Blair. Indeed, I am sure he is not. But he does have something of the same good luck about him and perhaps there will come a moment when the electorate will turn its back on charm. After all, the gritty Yorkshireman, Geoffrey Boycott, ended up making more runs than that infinitely more stylish batsman, David Gower.

The thing to remember is that leaders never turn out as we expect. Of the postwar Conservative choices, Eden turned out worse, Macmillan and Home better, Heath worse, Thatcher hugely better and Major less successful than the general expectation at the time they got the job.

If the Tories choose Hague they will be surprised, one way or the other. Probably some of those who vote for him will be disappointed; perhaps some of those who vote against him will be delighted with his actual performance. The leadership changes the people who get it. It turned Margaret Thatcher from a guinea fowl into an eagle. Few of us knew she had it in her. If William Hague is elected next week, the par for the course will be for him to lose the election of 2001, win and become Prime Minister in 2006, win the election of 2010, and retire as leader after losing the election of 2015. He will then only be 54 years old, the age John Major is on his retirement.

Bowling the Scots a googly

Magnus Linklater fears a Caledonian bias in the media

"Golly," said Henry Blofeld, "it's all happening out there this afternoon." Not many people say "Golly" these days, except perhaps on *Test Match Special*, but he had a point. Australian wickets were tumbling, England was on the point of an historic step towards the Ashes, the nation was glued to the telly. It all depended, however, which nation you were in. For a cricket fan in Scotland that Sunday afternoon, the viewing was a trifle frustrating. I have no complaints at all about the live coverage of Scotland's World Cup football game against Belarus (well I have, but I'm certainly not going to admit it in public). It was what followed that grated.

As Shane Warne dug in, and Ealham was brought on, we switched to golf, then shinty. I yield to no one in my admiration for shinty, a fast and furious Highland game. Also, this was no ordinary shinty: it was the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup Final. It was, however, a recording of the previous day's play, and it did seem to go on for ever. Then, as it ended, we moved — to Paris, where a Spaniard and a Brazilian were engaged in some distant tennis match. I think it was then on Radio Four that Blofeld used the G-word and I attempted to jam the BBC switchboard. We finally went over to Edgbaston for the last two overs.

I apologise for labouring this story, but it does have a point. From what I can gather, BBC Scotland had a schedule and was determined to stick to it. No one seems to have considered going back to the cricket (this is my guesswork) because no one thought there would be much interest north of the border in some English sport of strictly limited appeal.

I sincerely hope I am wrong about that, particularly as cricket, at club level, is hugely popular in Scotland. Many thousands more Scots play cricket than ever hit a shinty ball, and, as one of them, I can testify to the fact that interest in the Ashes series is intense. Meanwhile, Scotland has reached the world cricket finals ... Douglas Jardine was Scottish ... my case rests.

The issue, however, goes wider. With the promise of a Scottish Parliament, a keen debate has already begun about the nature of British broadcasting. Should the BBC, like the United Kingdom, devolve, giving Scotland proper autonomy? And if it does, what will viewers and listeners want in Scotland and Wales? The outcome may prove to be far more significant for the average Scot than answering the West Lothian Question or challenging the Government's White Paper.

Already Scottish Television has brought matters to a head by announcing that it is considering turning *News at Ten* in Scotland into a Scottish-based programme. The BBC in Scotland is thinking about how it would revamp the *Six O'Clock News*. Clearly, the proceedings of a Scottish Parliament, when it comes, will need special coverage. Already there is talk of broadcasting from a mini-Millbank studio sited in Edinburgh.

Some claim that digital television will solve everything by providing separate channels for interest-groups. But this is at best a panacea, at worst condescending. The real question is whether devolution will convert the Scots to an even greater appetite for their own culture at the expense of everything else, or whether they will insist on equal access, with the English, to the best of what is available.

In a sense it is a unionist versus an independent argument, the former outward-looking, the latter domestic. Research so far has come up with one blindingly obvious response: the Scots will not be fobbed off with second best. They want access to news as fast as anyone else, they want programmes equal in quality to anything produced in the south, and they want comprehensive coverage of important issues.

Their ideal viewing is a good Scottish programme that is also enjoyed in England — *Taggart, Rab C. Nesbitt, Hamish Macbeth*. But they will certainly demand more in the form of Scottish current affairs and documentaries as the political focus moves north. The BBC in London, a management-dominated, highy centralised body, will have to take a deep breath and consider a major distribution of power. Otherwise they could lose out in Scotland to rival channels prepared to make the investment.

It would be disastrous if programming were to be determined by political correctness — an assumption of what the average Scot is meant to be interested in, rather than what he wants to watch. Which is where my cricket story comes in. Producers of the future must not pander to cultural clichés or sacrifice links with England simply because they are judged to be un-Scottish. That would be parochial and obtuse. They should remember that Scotland is nothing if not a diverse nation, and has always had a lively curiosity about the wider world. When the time comes, I intend to apply my own version of Norman Tebbit's cricket test to keep the broadcasters on their toes.

THE TIMES DIARY

Back inside

DEREK LEWIS, the former Director-General of the Prison Service, was back at the Home Office yesterday for the first time since he fell at the hands of former Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

Lewis had been summoned by Howard's replacement, Jack Straw, for an hour-long *tête à tête* on prison strategy. His replacement, Richard Tilt, had no idea that the meeting was going on.

The news came as a surprise to Lewis's friend Ann Widdecombe, who was Howard's junior minister at the Home Office. She has made it her business since Labour's victory to bring Howard to his knees over his involvement in Lewis's downfall — Howard sacked him in 1995 after an escape from Parkhurst prison, on the Isle of Wight.

"It seems to me to be a recovery of common sense at the Home Office," said a jubilant Widdecombe yesterday. "All I can say is that I am very disappointed that one particular Home Secretary did not recognise his talents."

"I'd be delighted to give you a few tips on developing your charisma, William"

What ho!

NO POLICEMAN's helmet will be safe around Whitehall next month as the P.G. Wodehouse Society (UK) relaunches with a party on July 10 at the Savage Club, a tenant of the National Liberal Club. Despite having patrons including the Prime Minister, Richard Briers and Tom Sharpe, the society has been quiet of late. Hence the relaunch. The highlight of the evening will be a turn by Hal Cazalet, the great grandson of Wodehouse and a music student in New York, who will be playing and singing such Wodehouse songs as *Bill* and *Sonny Boy*. "Pelham hated *Sonny Boy*," says Norman Murphy, the chairman, "but Hal does it beautifully."

Almighty Fry

FIERY stuff comes from Stephen Fry in the latest issue of the *New Yorker*. He claims that the life of Oscar Wilde, who he plays in a new film, has "obvious parallels with the life of Christ".

"Wilde was despised and rejected," he writes, "he made fools of the pharisaical elements of society; he had disciples; he was betrayed by one he loved; he sat in his red plush Chelsea Gesthemane knocking back the hock and seltzer while all around him told him to flee before the entrance of the soldiers."

The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Reverend Dr Tom Wright, is fascinated: "If Oscar Wilde was Jesus Christ what does that make Stephen Fry — Saint John?" Sir Peregrine Worsthorne is appalled: "In drawing the comparison, Fry debases and mocks Wilde. Still, they were both crucified."

Going ape

AS NEIL HAMILTON and his wife Christine search forlornly for a publisher, news has broken of the first book about their downfall in Tatton. In September, Bloomsbury plans to publish a work called *Purple Homicide: Fear and Loathing on Knutsford Heath*.

Fry's Wilde: messianic

It will be written by John Sweeney, an *Observer* journalist who knew the Tatton victor Martin Bell in Sarajevo and whose election coverage irritated the formidable Christine. "It kicks off with an old Zairean proverb," explains Sweeney. "The higher the monkey climbs up a tree, the more you can see its bottom."

● *Has Sir Tim Bell, the public relations king, taken on a more dramatic client than the Tories in these days of new Labour? The producers of Always, a schmaltzy new West End musical about Edward and Mrs Simpson claim that they were invited by Sir Tim early on in rehearsals to brief them on the contents of the production.*

"He wanted to vet it for the Palace," said the lead producer Malcolm Cooke. "And later we were given the unofficial approval." Sir Tim begs to differ. "I met the producer on one occasion," he said. "I don't know the Palace and I don't brief the Palace."

First lesson

NOT SO long ago, Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall took a stroll round Eton as prospective parents. Now, Sting and his wife Trudi Styler have been looking at Bedales School in Hampshire, with a view to sending their son Jake there.

Sting: back to school

Bedales, an establishment renowned for its progressive outlook rather than its academic achievements, has long groomed the children of the famous. Viscount Linley and his sister Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones are remembered fondly, but Sting's visit was still a novelty. As the balding pop star toured the school with his wife they were mobbed by hordes of screaming schoolgirls.

"Darling," remarked Trudi, "this is just like our wedding."

P·H·S

صورة من الاصل

CHANCELLOR'S TWILIGHT

Kohl is struggling to keep his dream alive

The editorial in the German newspaper, *Handelsblatt*, this week stretches its metaphor somewhat. The German Government, it complains, is running about "like a bunch of headless chickens, cackling over debts, privatisations, cutbacks and higher taxes" while "grasping at straws". Super-hens indeed — but what is novel here is not the strained imagery, but the tone of exasperation bordering on contempt that is suddenly everywhere to be found in German debate.

Within a few short weeks, Helmut Kohl, so long considered invincible by friend and foe alike, has suffered an extraordinary loss of authority. The coalition that he has always held together by force of will is at loggerheads — and 70 per cent of Germans have lost confidence in his Government's capacity to handle the country's finances or to arrest the continuing rapid rise in unemployment. The Chancellor has himself to blame. The damage is self-inflicted.

The proximate cause is his humiliating recent defeat at the hands of the Bundesbank in a confrontation that Herr Kohl would in past years have had the sense to avoid. The Rhinegold affair, a scheme to shrink the budget deficit by forcing through a law to revalue German reserves, seriously dented Herr Kohl's reputation not only as a prudent manager of Germany's interests but as a politician with his finger on the nation's pulse. It was a political mistake comparable to Margaret Thatcher's ill-fated poll tax, and ideologically a good deal less respectable.

The underlying reason for this upheaval in the political landscape is that Herr Kohl is seen as a man driven by a single obsession, economic and monetary union, which has clouded his judgment and distorted government policy. He reinforced that impression last week. On his feet in the Bundestag to defend Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, against a vote of censure, he thundered his unwavering commitment to the 1999 deadline for EMU — reinforcing the impression that all stratagems are justified as means to this overriding end. He winced, once: it was when the leader of the Greens, Joschka Fischer, taunted him that the Kohl era was ending in a *Känzlerdammerung*.

With the Bundesbank leading the people, Germans are increasingly demanding that the Government concentrate less on "Europe" and more on Germany's national needs. But for Germans, this is no mere adjustment of priorities. So comprehensively has Europe driven the political agenda that it amounts to the breaking of a taboo — imposed by Herr Kohl out of the conviction that the alternative would be the revival of assertive German nationalism. That is what he meant last year, when he called EMU a question of "war or peace in the 21st century".

One result is that the political debate that Germany needs to have has been muffled. Erhard's children have been encouraged to believe that they do not need to choose between social democracy and Thatcherism, that they can have a successful free market economy without deregulation. To stay competitive, Germany's most dynamic industrial leaders have been compelled to shed this illusion; one reason for rising unemployment is that they have begun radical restructuring at home and, in many cases, are shifting production abroad. By contrast, Bonn is stuck in a timewarp; and that is a potent source of public unease.

The Chancellor's fractious Government may yet cobble together a compromise and meet its July 10 deadline for setting the federal budget for 1998. But that will only buy a brief respite. After the summer recess, Germany enters 12 months of almost constant elections — in Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Sachsen-Anhalt, Bavaria — leading up to the general election in September 1998. Herr Kohl has stayed on to fight this final electoral battle of his career out of fear that no successor could be trusted to put Europe, and EMU, first. In so doing, he shows weakness, not strength. Darkness may be slow to descend on Herr Kohl's twilight. But it is falling all the time.

TIME FOR CLARITY

Redwood's candidacy should encourage Hague's candour

The luck of Tony Blair seems boundless. Since his election there has been change in his favour in France, in Germany and now in the Conservative Party. Yesterday's preparations for the next round of Tory leadership voting have reinforced Tuesday's impression of a good result for Labour. A weak Opposition has been left less united and harder to unite around a winning platform.

"There is nothing so undignified," the Tory politician Walter Long once remarked, "as a ballot for the leadership of the great Unionist Party." Dignity has certainly been sacrificed this week. But dignity is not the greatest sacrifice. The bitterness in John Redwood's camp over the decision of Michael Howard and Peter Lilley to back William Hague is immense. Few Conservative MPs, except Mr Hague's most immediate supporters, are feeling better as a result of the vote. Most are querulous, still introspective and confused.

The way forward remains clouded. Before the party can turn to evangelising again, there is much work to be done on the message. Even if Mr Hague is now the favourite, *the most successful candidacy of the* Right, that of John Redwood, still counts. He should be encouraged to continue his campaign. The speed with which Peter Lilley and Michael Howard endorsed Mr Hague's candidature was too great. They allowed his sails to billow but they have made it difficult for themselves *to influence his course.*

There will be many in the Conservative Party understandably anxious to bring the contest to a conclusion. The vote proved the strength of radicalism in the Tory ranks but also its persistent inability to direct that strength best. Many on the moderate Right and centre are keen to row in behind the most congenial likely victor, Mr Hague. A caveat should still be entered. In the week before his coronation, there is still time for Tories to test him. Most of what Mr Hague has said recommends him but, even in this long contest, he has not been drawn out sufficiently. Few are better fitted for that tutor's task than Mr Redwood. Although not the Tories' natural leader, Mr Redwood could yet be its sherpa and sage.

The rapid rallying behind Mr Hague emphasises the importance of unity, but risks making that the exclusive virtue. The Tories were punished at the last election because they were a divided party. They were divided, however, because the leadership sought unity through compromise above all else and, in the wise words of Michael Howard, "endlessly splitting the difference just caused endless splits".

The real cause of division, and eventual defeat, was the lack of coherent policy and strong leadership. Mr Hague could provide both, but his campaign hitherto, although original on organisational reform, has been *indistinct on policy direction*. Mr Redwood's candidacy, and the potential for colleagues to join that campaign, will provide an incentive for Mr Hague to show his mettle.

It is not necessary for Mr Hague to provide his party with minute policy detail. *But many Conservatives are still anxious for reassurance that Mr Hague is as impressive* as he seems to Mr Lilley and Mr Howard. Mr Hague does not need to pass a purity test. That would be an arid exercise. He should simply show the same boldness in saying what he will do as leader as he has shown in fighting for the leadership.

GENERAL ISSUE

Soldier, Soldier, will you marry me?

Most armed forces fear shells and torpedoes. In the United States sex has become the more dangerous enemy. Last month the case of Lieutenant Kelly Flinn absorbed the attentions of Americans. Lieutenant Flinn, first female pilot of a B-52 nuclear bomber, was obliged to resign her commission after affairs with an enlisted man and then a civilian married to a woman officer. She was also charged with disobeying orders and lying to her commander. Her court martial was abandoned after a huge political outcry.

Two weeks ago General Joseph Ralston had been the firm favourite for the post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — the most senior position in the American military. His candidature has been destroyed by the revelation of adultery. That the liaison in question happened 13 years ago, involved a civilian completely unconnected with the military, and occurred while he was separated from his wife, is all deemed irrelevant. A blood sacrifice has been demanded and the General was the victim.

This whole sorry saga highlights one of the least attractive aspects of American public life — a frenzy which loses all sense of proportion and descends into a witchhunt. Only in the United States could Salem become a televised enterprise. Four years ago it was the employment of overseas nannies. Now it is adultery. Last week most of the mainstream media shamelessly amplified the accusations against General Ralston. This week the same publications are lamenting his fall.

All of this would be but a sad curiosity were its effects not so significant. Such "scandals" have had a devastating effect on the American military. Six years ago there was a lamentable incident involving sexual harassment at a US navy event. As a result of this "Tailhook" affair, a vast cohort of officers was effectively retired or excluded from promotion simply for being in the hotel where the transgression took place. According to one authoritative estimate, more senior experience was removed from the American military as a result of Tailhook than at Pearl Harbor.

There are important issues involving the integration of women into the US armed forces that the Pentagon needs to address. Lieutenant Flinn's situation was not handled with appropriate sensitivity. The Ministry of Defence in Britain is also aware that past regulations on sexual relations are not sustainable. But on present form the American military will soon become a laughing stock. An army cannot march on political correctness. The United States front line now seems to have far more to fear from interest groups and politicians in Washington than any foreign foe. This is, as General Anthony McAuliffe succinctly argued when asked to surrender at the Battle of the Bulge, "nuts".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lessons of Tory leadership vote

From Mr Andrew Marshall

Sir, The results of the leadership vote and the consultation exercise with all sections of the Conservative Party (reports, June 11) have demonstrated beyond question that Ken Clarke is best placed to unite the party. Opinion polls show he also commands by far the most support with the public as an attractive advocate for Conservatism.

Above all, the vote in the constituencies, confounding widespread preconceptions about the attitudes of local activists, indicates that the party's grass roots have grasped the lessons of our defeat and thought imaginatively and pragmatically about who can best lead us to recovery.

It would be quite perverse if Conservative MPs now ignored the overwhelming enthusiasm for Ken Clarke across the party and insisted on electing a leader who would be immediately hampered by a lack of moral authority. Our MPs must now listen to their supporters and rally to the candidate who has proved a winner in the party and in the country.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MARSHALL
(Conservative candidate,
Birmingham Edgbaston, 1997),
2 Eton Rise,
Eton College Road, NW3.
June 11.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Nothing more clearly demonstrates Conservative MPs' inability to understand why they are so unpopular than their support for Kenneth Clarke as leader.

At the general election many voters had the impression that the Government had become arrogant and distant. That 49 Tories can still vote for a leader who is not prepared to resist the transfer of power to Europe, which can only mean more distance, more arrogance and more resentment, means they have no understanding of what is going on.

Mr Clarke simply cannot be trusted to protect our rights.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.
June 11.

From Mr L. T. Smith

Sir, The Conservative Party is clumsily rewriting history.

First they will elect a "Michael Foot" as leader (Clarke). Then they will replace him with a "Neil Kinnock" (Portillo).

Finally, in about ten years' time, they will stumble across a leader who will save the nation. But this Churchill is not on the stage yet.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. SMITH,
23 Markham House,
Kingswood Drive, SE21.
June 11.

From Mr Mark Clements

Sir, William Hague has indicated his wish to broaden the basis of electing the Tory party leader.

Presumably, in the light of Mr Clarke's outright and overwhelming success in the various secondary polls that took place prior to yesterday's vote of MPs, Mr Hague, as a man of principle, should call on his *supporters to support Clarke in the second* ballot.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CLEMENTS,
The Beetling Mill,
Stormontfield, Perth.
June 11.

From Mr E. H. R. Fane

Sir, Following yesterday's vote, Kenneth Clarke should be the new leader of the Conservative Party today. Surely no one could argue that the "first past the post" system, by which our MPs were so recently elected, is undemocratic?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD FANE,
15 Kyrle Road, SW11.
June 11.

Party's parties

From Mr R. E. Stubbs

Sir, Offering drinks to potential voters, as the candidates in the Conservative leadership election have done (reports, June 10), seems a good idea. Can it be extended please to the electorate in national and local elections? I'd drink to that!

Yours faithfully,
RON STUBBS,
33 Silverdale,
Barming, Maidstone, Kent.

Still electable?

From Mr David Smithers

Sir, An outsider's view of the passion and rhetoric of our domestic politics comes in a letter from a Romanian friend.

He asks: "Now that you have chosen your new Government in Great Britain, can we have the one you didn't want?"

Yours sincerely,
DAVID SMITHERS,
Silver How, Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
June 11.

Business letters, page 31

Appeal for Alexandra Palace mast

From the Chairman of the Alexandra Palace Television Trust

Sir, Recent concerns regarding the Marconi archives have been allayed (letters, February 5, 10, 12, 14; report, March 26), but may we draw your readers' attention to the danger of mutilation to the most prominent Marconi Company artefact — the television mast at the Alexandra Palace.

This structure, which in 1936 broadcast the first regular high-definition television service in the world, has been compared to Stonehenge in its importance for cultural history. Though it lost its radiating aerials — so familiar from the television newsreels of the Fifties — the steel structure has survived hurricanes and the Palace's fire in 1980.

The last Government required the BBC to sell off its transmission arm, including all its masts, which are now owned, by an American-controlled company, Castle Tower Corporation. A planning application is due to be considered by Haringey Council on June 23 to remove a large section of the Alexandra Palace mast on the grounds that the attachment of new, digital radio aerials will place an unacceptable wind pressure on the mast, a view disputed by experts.

As it overlooks a huge conurbation, it has been loaded with many commercial — and profitable — private aerials. Nevertheless, our advice is that it was so solidly built in 1936 that it could be suitably strengthened to accommodate the proposed radio aerials.

This trust has been formed to conserve, restore and open to the public the old television station at Alexandra Palace, to commemorate a triumph of British initiative. We have received funding from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts for a feasibility study, and intend to make a Heritage lottery bid.

The mast is the world's oldest television aerial still in use; it would be an act of vandalism to demolish part of an historic scientific instrument, which was designed to the exact specifications of Baird, EMI and the Marconi Company to accommodate early television wavelengths and transmission needs. Would the nation accept this in relation to a cultural icon rather than a scientific landmark?

We beg English Heritage and the new Heritage Secretary to use their powers to prevent this short-sighted folly.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE WOLFE, Chairman,
Alexandra Palace Television Trust,
20 Lansdowne Road, N10.
June 10.

Helping Sierra Leone

From the Chief Executive of Care International (UK)

Sir, As a representative of 11 members of the British non-governmental organisation's working group on Sierra Leone, I would like to express our deepest concern over the recent events in that country. Its people have lost their cherished democracy, which they risked so much to achieve. Militarisation has resulted in significant loss of civilian life and clear breaches of human rights.

We urge the British Government to take an international lead in pushing for the rapid restoration of peace and democratic governance, by diplomatic rather than military means. It is vital that a negotiated settlement leads to revitalisation of the Sierrra Leone peace accords.

We would also like to stress the need to continue humanitarian aid to Sierra Leone. Supplies have been disrupted, salaries have not been paid, food prices have doubled and the banks remain closed. There may be a need to respond quickly and funds need to be made available.

Many of our expatriate staff have been withdrawn because of the security situation but many local partner organsiations continue with their work and our Sierra Leone staff will resume this as soon as they are able. Expatriate staff will return as soon as is practicable.

The people of Sierra Leone have been through so much: let us not forget them now.

Yours faithfully,
WILL DAY, Chief Executive,
Care International (UK),
36-38 Southampton Street, WC2.
June 11.

Marking millennium

From Miss Caroline Sheppard

Sir, In the light of the Government's decision to release £5 billion of local council capital for new homes (report, May 15), I suggest that the best and most enduring celebration of the millennium would be for each local authority to be charged with creating a public housing scheme — either by new construction, or by restoring or converting existing buildings.

The scheme could involve partnerships with housing trusts or the private sector or simply a proposal from the local authority itself. An appropriate committee (or regional committees) would set criteria for the schemes, emphasising architectural excellence and local integrity, and the release of the capital funds would be dependent on each scheme fulfilling these criteria.

The committee would create a number of financial awards from the Millennium Fund, encouraging and assisting schemes of exceptional merit, the use of local craftsmen, and the creation of training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Not all the projects could be completed by the year 2000. However, the Government could start the initiative now by providing the necessary legislation to release council house capital funds and to make exceptions to compulsory competitive tendering requirements. All the designs for schemes should be devised and approved in time to be shown at a splendid touring exhibition throughout the year 2000.

Yours sincerely,
CAROLINE SHEPPARD,
The Wellnage, Duns, Berwickshire.
June 11.

Charity overseas

From the Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, It was gratifying to read Magnus Linklater's article (June 5) highlighting the parochialism behind the reaction of some sections of the British media to the National Lottery Charities Board's (NLCB) international grants programme.

As he rightly asserts, the British public have always rated overseas aid and development among the most deserving charitable causes, with 15 per cent of all charity donations already going to help causes abroad.

The stance taken by some of the tabloid press — that the lottery-playing public in Britain has no interest in helping needy people overseas — is hypocritical in the extreme.

Initiatives such as Live Aid, Comic Relief and the relief missions to Bosnia succeeded in part because of the wholehearted support they enjoyed from the media.

Yet while the NLCB has sought to respond to the public's longstanding commitment to overseas aid by funding international projects, that same media has curiously responded with indignant cries of "charity begins at home".

The NLCB's commitment to funding diverse areas of charity work deserves recognition, and praise.

Yours faithfully,
STUART ETHERINGTON,
Chief Executive,
National Council for
Voluntary Organisations,
Regent's Wharf,
8 All Saints Street, N1.
June 6.

The House of Oudh

From Mrs Nancy Penrose

Sir, The article by Christopher Thomas on the "death throes" of the now impoverished Indian royal house of Oudh ("The dynasty of the living dead", May 27) interested me because I was born in 1909 in a house in Garden Reach near Calcutta that had been one of the residences of the last ruler of Oudh, who was deposed by the British in 1857.

The large property and compound had lain empty for some time and my father was able to rent it cheaply. I recall my mother saying that jackals lived in the basement and howled the night I was born.

The house was demolished when the King George V Docks were constructed in the early 1920s, but I remember the large tanks (lakes) in the compound and the cages built in the walls surrounding the property where the Rajah's tigers were housed.

I suppose the last ruler would be the great-grandfather of the brother and sister whose sad fate Mr Thomas highlighted. If I win the lottery I will remember their plight.

Sincerely,
NANCY PENROSE,
Richard's Orchard, Shernal Green,
Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester.
June 8.

Covering up

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, I am neither an Apprentice Boy nor a retired senior officer but I do wear my bowler (letter, June 9) once a year to watch the annual Bastille Day parade in Paris. I have done so for the last decade.

In such circumstances I believe that bowler and brolly are a polite way of asserting one's Englishness. I do not think it offends. Indeed, as I strolled bareheaded down the Champs-Elysées on the eve of "*Le Quatorze*" last year, a CRS officer in customary riot gear who presumably recognised me from previous years, approached, saluted and politely inquired: "*Où est le chapeau noir, monsieur?*"

I assured him that it would be in place on the morrow, along with my rolled umbrella. With a smiling "*Merci bien*", he insisted on shaking hands. Hardly an Anglophobic response to my visible nationalism.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,
22 Roan Court,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.
June 9.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Needs of mothers who stay at home

From Lady Neill, Chairman of the British Housewives' League

Sir, When the amendments to the EU Treaty are proposed at Amsterdam, pushing forward the cause of equality of treatment for men and women (letters, June 6, 7), I hope that equal attention is given to the needs of mothers with young children who wish to remain at home.

The Labour Party manifesto spoke of the importance of social stability. This is a worthy aim but it can only be achieved if we build on what is sustainable. At present we do not provide an environment in which all children can grow into mature, dependable and healthy adults.

The Government is offering state-funded childcare, but such facilities will only be available outside the home. If parents are to be held responsible for their offspring then surely they must not be discouraged from looking after them themselves. It cannot be right for the State to assume parental responsibilities if the likely consequence is that parenting becomes a forgotten art.

Institutionalising children has never been anything but a second best. If this is what women are asking for then there is something wrong with the way we are ordering society.

Yours truly,
CAROLINE NEILL, Chairman,
British Housewives' League,
8 Milborne Grove, SW10.
June 11.

Good sports

From Mr Kevin Grant

Sir, Your deeply felt leader today, "Waltzing over Matilda", is triumphal but falls elegantly short of gloating. And so it should. The first law of international cricket is: "It is always too soon to feel sorry for Australia." Remember.

Yours sincerely,
KEVIN GRANT,
October Cottage,
Main Road, Old Fishbourne,
Chichester, West Sussex.
June 9.

From Mr Nicholas Elliott, QC

Sir, The Reverend Ian Gregory inquires (letter, June 10) whether anybody has perfected a TV control unit that "deletes the idiots' chorus from Test match transmission". The answer is yes. I and many others have. Turn the volume control on the television down and the Radio 4 ball-by-ball commentary on.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ELLIOTT,
3 Verulam Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.
June 10.

Thoughtful paws

From Mr P. R. Oliver

Sir, My wife and I maintain a wire-mesh feeder filled with nuts and suspended by a five-foot chain from the overhanging eaves of our cottage. These nuts are intended strictly for the birds, but recently our resident grey squirrel, unable to reach the feeder in any other way, has discovered that by *balancing in the gutter he can haul it* up by the chain: forepaw over forepaw.

Is this normal squirrel ingenuity, or are we unwillingly hosting a super-squirrel, aiming perhaps at starring in a drinks advertisement?

Yours faithfully,
P. R. OLIVER,
Bridge Cottage, Little Petherick,
Wadebridge, Cornwall.

Cracking the code

From Mr William Holland

Sir, The label on a small bottle of Chilean wine that was served with a recent in-flight meal read:

Bottled at PR5/4AT by W1108 for Universal Wines and Spirits BL3/2PY, UK.

This surely would have presented a formidable challenge to Enigma.

Yours sincerely,
W. HOLLAND,
18 St John's Hill Grove, SW11.
June 10.

Fitting send-off

From Mr Frank Kilvington

Sir, In her article on changing burial customs (June 4), Grace Bradberry implies that the use of coffins as articles of furniture is a modern development.

John Cussans, in his own copy of his *History of Hertfordshire* published in the 1870s (now in Hertfordshire County Record Office), has added the case of William Jones, vicar of Broxbourne until his death in 1821, who ordered his coffin some 12 years before and had it fitted with shelves to form a bookcase.

Unfortunately the reverend gentleman put on weight in those years and at his death a local carpenter had to be summoned to enlarge the coffin. "But it was a proper tight fit, Sir, I tell yew," was the comment of the old man who told Cussans the story.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK KILVINGTON,
122 Marshalswick Lane,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
June 6.

6

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 11: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Northern Ireland and were received at Royal Air Force Aldergrove this morning by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (the Rt Hon Dr Marjorie Mowlam MP), Lieutenant General Sir Rupert Smith (General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland) and the Lord Dubs (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nothern Ireland).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visited the Multi-Purpose Centre, Dungannon, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Tyrone (the Duke of Abercorn) and Mrs Fiona Hegarty (Centre Manager).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured an exhibition of the Speedwell Project, escorted by Mrs Jean Kelly (Director of the Project), and afterwards met Principals of other schools associated with Education for Mutual Understanding projects.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness subsequently met local schoolchildren.

This afternoon The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited Hillsborough Castle, were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Down (Mr William Hall) and were entertained to Luncheon at the Castle by the Lord Dubs.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later attended a Garden Party in the Grounds of Hillsborough Castle.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this evening attended a Dinner at Boodle's, St James's Street, London, SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 11: The Princess Royal this morning attended the Diplomates' Ceremony to be formally installed as Patron of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, at Logan Hall, Institute of Education, Bedford Way, and afterwards at the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Russell Square, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of London, this afternoon attended the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Charles Clore House, Russell Square, London WC1.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Association of Combined Youth Clubs, this evening visited New Eltham Methodist Youth and Community Centre, 433 Footscray Road, London SE9, Greenwich Youth Aid Herongate Centre, Winchat Road, Thamesmead West, London SE28, and Greenwich Youth Democracy Project, Rathmore Youth Centre, Rathmore Road, Chalton, London SE7.

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 11: Queen Elizabeth The Quen Mother this morning visited Smithfield and opened the restored East Market.

Her Majesty subsequently honoured the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor (Alderman Roger Cork) and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers (Mr Michael Katz) with her presence at Lncheon at Butchers' Hall.

The Lady Angela Oswald and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 11: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, Northern Ballet Theatre, was present this evening at a performance of *Dracula* at the Grand Thaetre, Leeds.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire (Mr John Lyles).

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 11: The Duke of Glouceter, Commissioner, English Heritage, today took part in the Commissioners' Annual Tour of Cornwall.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 11: The Duke of Kent this morning attended a private preview of the Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair, Park Lane, London W1.

Birthdays today

Professor Michael Adler, venereologist, 58; Mr George Bush, GCB, former American President, 73; Mr C.D.L. Clark, publisher and lawyer, 64; Mr John Copley, opera producer and director, 64; the Earl of Cromartie, 49; Mr Vic Damone, singer, 69; Mr Michael Fabricant, MP, 47; Sir Peter Froggatt, former Vice-Chancellor, The Queen's University, Belfast, 69; Lady Herries of Terregles, racehorse trainer, 59; Sir Kenneth Hollings, former High Court judge, 79; Mr Pat Jennings, footballer, 52; Mr Peter Jones, actor, 77; Lord Justice Kennedy, 62; Viscount Knollys, 66; Mr Oliver Knussen, composer, 45; Lord McCluskey, 68; Dr Ernest Mario, former chief executive, Glaxo Holdings, 59.

Luncheon

Mid Atlantic Club
Lord McNally was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid Atlantic Club held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Lord Ezra presided.

Reception

HM Government
To mark The Queen's Official Birthday, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was the host at a reception last night in the Locarno Rooms of the Foreign Office. High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Acting High Commissioners, Chargés d'Affaires and heads of international organisations were among the guests.

University news

Durham
The Rev Joseph Cassidy to be Principal of St Chad's College from October 1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Shakespeare Globe Trust, will attend a special celebratory performance to mark the opening of Shakespeare's Globe, Bear Gardens, London SE1 at 7.25.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President, will preside at a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace at 11.30; and as Patron, Opportunities for People with Disabilities, will attend a reception at the Gibson Hall, Bishopsgate, at 12.30.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will have luncheon with The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry at Claridge's at 12.45.

The Prince of Wales, Vice-Patron, British Council, will attend a reception to mark the 1997 European Series, St James's Palace, at noon; and will unveil the newly restored Elfin Oak in Kensington Gardens and attend a reception given by th Royal Parks in the Orangery, Kensington Palace, at 2.

The Princess Royal, as President, Save the Children Fund, will attend the 34th Industry and Commerce Group meeting at 4.30 and a private appeal dinner at Buckingham Palace at 7.50.

The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor, Surrey University, will preside at the Conferment of Degrees at Guildford Cathedral at 10.10.

Princess Alexandra, as President of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, will attend a charity gala evening of the Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair at 8.

Latest wills

Dame Cicely Veronica Wedgwood, OM, historian, left estate valued at £1,033,804 net.
She left £1,000 to the London Library.

ADRIAN BROOKS

A couple of gnomes are snapped up at the opening yesterday of the BBC *Gardeners' World* Live flower show in Birmingham, organised by the RHS

Birmingham lets in gnomes

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A DISPLAY of summer-flowering herbaceous plants has been judged best exhibit in the Royal Horticultural Society's marquee at the BBC *Gardeners' World* Live flower and garden show.

Staged by Rushfields of Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester, the plants are grouped according to the conditions needed: hostas, astilbes and primulas for cool moist parts, and stately verbascums with spire-like flowers, geraniums and penstemons for warm sunny areas. The display has also been awarded a gold medal.

Many new plants have been launched at the RHS flower show, which opened yesterday. R.V. Roger, of Pickering, North Yorkshire, is showing some new alliums, or ornamental onions, in a large display. They include *A. Jesdianum* "Akbulak" from Usbekistan with globe-shaped heads of purple flowers, and *A. Hollandicum* "Album" with loose globes of white flowers.

A new sweet pea, "Sophie", bred and shown by S. & N. Brackley, of Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, is attracting interest with well scented coral pink flowers. The brilliant red flowers of *Pelargonium* "Fir Trees Fire Star", bred and shown by Fir Trees Pelargonium Nursery, of Stokesley, Cleveland, which was awarded a gold medal, also created an impact.

Glenedd Violets, of Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire, won a gold medal for a display of saintpaulias (African violets), including includes two new miniatures, "Ami" with red semi-double flowers, and purple-red double-flowered "Beamy".

Jekka's Herb Farm, of Alveston, Bristol, is reintroducing an annual herb from Europe not grown in Britain in modern times. Strawberry spinach *(Chenopodium Capitatum)* has spinach-like leaves, and fruit that resembles strawberries. The leaves, fruits and even the flowers can be used in salads or cooked as a vegetable.

Hebes or shrubby veronicas are in fashion and part of the National Collection is being shown by Siskin Plants, of Charsfield, Suffolk, including some of the latest editions to the collection such as "Wiri Cloud" with vivid pink flowers, and red-purple "Wiri Charm", both from New Zealand.

The only garden to receive a gold medal at the *Gardeners' World* Live is the Pilgrim's Garden by Garden Art, of Newcastle upon-Tyne. Drawing on John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, this symbolic garden "takes visitors to hell and back".

Sales were brisk on the opening day. Garden gnomes, for long denied an appearance at Hampton Court or Chelsea, were welcome in Birmingham and were selling well. The show, at the National Exhibition Centre, is open between 9am and 7pm, and closes on Sunday at 6pm. Telephone for tickets: 0121 7674111.

King's College School, Wimbledon

The following elections have been made by King's College School for September 1997:

Major Scholars
Iqbal Nasim, King's College Junior School: *Classics Award*; Nicholas Johnston, KCJS; John Ryan, KCJS; Benedict Gearing, Rokeby: *Modern Language Award*.

Scholars
Ricki Gidoomal, KCJS; Jonathan Hopkins, Shrewsbury House; Robert Davies, KCJS; Nicholas Ruesink-Brown, Milbourne Lodge; Jonathan Bamford, The Mall; Matthew Chessum, Homefield; Richard Silk, KCJS; Andrew Mountjoy, KCJS.

Exhibitioners
Oliver Creasey, Homefield; David Wigg, KCJS; Robert Bamford, The Mall; Matthew Owens, The Mall; David Lewin, Rokeby; James Anderson, KCJS; Rupert Try, Shrewsbury House; Daniel Wendon, Rokeby; Pira Tejasakulsin, Willington; Nicholas Southam, King's House.

Music Scholars
Mark Pullinger, Westminster Cathedral Choir School; David Lewin, Rokeby.

Music Exhibitioners
James Browning, The Mall; Ricki Gidoomal, KCJS; Matthew Owens, The Mall.

Junior School Scholars
Ralph Michell, East Sheen Primary School; Pradheep Shanmugalingam, Coombe Hill Junior School, Kingston; Nicholas Lister, Wimbledon Chase Middle School; Scott Brenman, Sheen Mount Primary School.

Latymer Upper School

Latymer Upper School is pleased to announce the following awards for September 1997.

Latymer Foundation Academic Scholarships for 11+ entry
Daniel Aked, The Vineyard School; Nicky Baker, St Mary's, Twickenham; Christopher Cullen, Westfields Primary School; Harry Daws, The Unicorn School; Joel Gregory, The Latymer Preparatory School; Aaron Joseph, St Christopher's School; Thomas Mikkelsen, The Queen's School.

Latymer Foundation Music Scholarships for 11+ entry
Owen Findlay, The Latymer Preparatory School.

Latymer Foundation Academic Scholarships for 13+ entry
Samuel Solnick, King's House School; Jack Steege, King's House School.

Latymer Foundation Exhibition Scholarships for 13+ entry
Aman Anand, Durston House School; Harry Cowderoy, Durston House School; Anil Gothar, Great Houghton Preparatory School; Nicholas Keetch, St Philip's School.

Latymer Foundation Music Scholarships (internal)
Dominic Thurgood.

Memorial service

Captain Nicholas Barker, RN
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Captain Nicholas Barker, RN, a Younger Brother of Trinity House and Captain of *HMS Endurance* 1980-82, was held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral. Canon Roy White, Vice-Provost, officiated, assisted by the Rev Brian Wilkinson, Vice-Chairman of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, and the Rev Albert Braithwaite.

Sir Rex Hunt and Lord Buxton of Alsa read the lessons and Mr Ben Barker, son, read the *Fishermen's prayer*. Mr Neil Durden Smith gave an address.

Royal Marine Bugler Paul Annett sounded Last Post and Reveille during the service. Among others present were:

Mrs Barker (widow), Henry Barker (son), Mr and Mrs Hugh Townsend and Mr and Mrs Christopher Payne (sons-in-law and daughters), Cecelia and Benedict Payne (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Graham Glasse (brother-in-law and sister), Miss Lucy Redman, Mr Justin Redman, Mrs Elizabeth Barker, Mr and Mrs Tim Cartwright-Taylor, Mrs V Grebenik, Mrs Alison Rogers.

The Earl of Kinnoull (Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen) and the Countess of Kinnoull with Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Marsden, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, Lord Renwick (South West Atlantic Group), Baroness Wilcox, the Hon Mrs Bergel, Sir Robin Gillett, Admiral Sir Jock Slater (First Sea Lord), Admiral Sir Nicholas and Lady Hunt, Admiral Sir Brian Brown, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, Vice-Admiral Sir David and Lady Dobson, Vice-Admiral Sir John Cox, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, Rear-Admiral Sir John Garnier, Sir Geoffrey Inkin, Major Michael and Lady Wendy Lycett.

Mrs Neil Durden Smith, Mrs Emma Dawson, Mr Giles Shepard, Mr and Mrs A Trustram Eve, Mr and Mrs Anthony Harvey, Mr Colin Seaward, Mr and Mrs George Vallings, Mr and Mrs Correlli Barnett, Lieutenant-Commander David Gunn, Major-General and Mrs Peter Welsh, Miss Kate Adie, Captain and Mrs Malcolm Carver, Mrs V Howard Vyse, Brigadier and Mrs N Cocking, Lieutenant Commander Ali Buchanan, Professor and Mrs C D Calnan, Mrs George Hugh Taylor, the Rev P J Millam, Mr and Mrs Anthony Given, Mr Robert Jerrom, Mrs E Given, Mr Roger Lankester, Mr Leo Cooper, Mr Russell Hawkes, Mr Augustine J Woodroff Noble, Mr D Woodroff Noble, Mr and Mrs Jerry Briant.

Rear-Admiral and Mrs John Carlill, Rear-Admiral Anthony Wheatley, Rear-Admiral Nicholas Wilkinson, Rear-Admiral John Myres (Hydrographer of the Navy), Major-General D A S Pennefather (Commandant General Royal Marines), Captain T. Woodfield (*Trinity House*) and Mrs Woodfield; Miss Sukey Cameron (Falkland Islands Government), Mr and Mrs R H Briggs (Falkland Families Association), Mr Robert Elgood (Falkland Islands Association), Captain Barry Bryant (Commanding Officer *HMS Endurance*) with past and present officers and crew.

The Clerk of the Fishmongers' Company, Commander Mike Green (*Endurance* Association), Commander Michael Ranken (Parliamentary Maritime Group and SWAG) and Mrs Ranken, Captain Richard Stenlake (Maritime Volunteer Service), Captain Christopher Chamberlen (Victorian Cruise Line) and representatives of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, *HMS Fearless*, *HMS Sheffield*, the *HMS Sheffield* Association, *Sheffield* Sea Cadets, the Royal Naval College Greenwich, the RNLI, the Shipwrecked Mariners' Association, the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency, the Naval Club, the Royal Marines, the Royal British Legion and many other friends and colleagues.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Harriet Martineau, novelist, Norwich, 1802; Charles Kingsley, novelist, Holne, Devon, 1819; Sir Oliver Lodge, physicist, Penkhull, Staffordshire, 1851; Anthony Eden, 1st Earl of Avon, Prime Minister 1955-57, Bishop Auckland, Durham, 1897; Leon Goossens, oboist, Liverpool, 1897; Anne Frank, Frankfurt am Main, 1929.

DEATHS: William Collins, poet, Chichester, 1759; Thomas Arnold, educator, Rugby, 1842; William Cullen Bryant, poet, New York, 1878; John Nicholson Ireland, composer, Washington, Sussex, 1962; Sir Herbert Read, poet and critic, Malton, Yorkshire, 1968; Sir Billy Butlin, holiday camp founder, Jersey, 1980; Dame Marie Rambert, founder of dance company, London, 1982.

Magdalen College, Oxford, was founded, 1458.

Rotherhithe-Stepney tunnel under the Thames was opened, 1908.

Princess Anne became the Princess Royal, 1987.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Newall
and Miss A.J. Heyworth-Dunne
The engagement is announced between Rupert, elder son of Sir Paul and Lady Newall, of Yoxford, Suffolk, and Annabel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Heyworth-Dunne, of Smallburgh, Norfolk.

Mr J.G. Blyth
and Miss J.E. Ellis
The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs James Blyth, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Ellis, of Moor Park, Northwood, Middlesex.

Mr M.A.J.W. Hamblin
and Miss A.F. Wells
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Hamblin, of Lower Farm, West Ginge, Oxfordshire, and Angela Frances, only daughter of Ms Barbara Tearle, of Oxford.

Mr R.D. Hill
and Miss J.R.M. Burton
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Hill, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Burton, of Shincliffe, Durham.

Mr A.M. Llewellyn-Jones
and Miss J.K. Griffith Williams
The engagement is announced between Myles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Llewellyn-Jones, of Coedkernew, Monmouthshire, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Griffith Williams, of Llandaff, Cardiff.

Captain R.T. Lutwyche
and Miss S.J. Kelsey
The engagement is announced between Captain Tony Lutwyche, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), eldest son of Mrs Penny Clarke and stepson of the late Frank Clarke, and Serena, daughter of Mr John Kelsey and Mrs Joan Kelsey.

Mr B.N.Ll. Morgan
and Mrs S.J. MacIver
The engagement is announced between Brinley Noel Llewelyn, youngest son of the late Canon M.B. and Mrs Morgan, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Sandra Jacqueline MacIver, née Mills, younger daughter of Mrs I.R. Mills and the late Captain J.R. Mills, of Milford, Surrey.

Mr D.P. Reading
and Miss H.L. Guest
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr Terence Reading, of London, and of Mrs Carmen Reading, of Polperro, Cornwall, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ashley Guest, of Ansty, West Sussex.

Mr D.G. Rivett
and Mrs S.E. Trotter
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mrs Betty Rivett, of Cheam, Surrey, and the late Mr Edward Rivett, and Sally, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Alexander Duncan, of Evanton, Ross-shire.

Mr T.R.J. Stubbs
and Miss M.L. Hamilton
The engagement is announced between Timothy Rupert John, son of Dr and Mrs Guy Stubbs, of Ludlow, Shropshire, and Melinda Lyde, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs James L. Hamilton III, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Marriages

Mr G. Ring
and Miss C. Brand
The marriage took place in London, on June 5, between Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Ring, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Michael and the Hon Mrs Brand.

Mr J. Burnett-Stuart
and Miss J. Strickland
The marriage took place at St Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley, California, on Sunday, June 1, 1997, between Mr Jack Burnett-Stuart, son of Mr and Mrs Joe Burnett-Stuart, of Ardmeallie, Banffshire, Scotland, and Miss Julia Strickland, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie Strickland, of Kensington, California.

Mr M.J. Cassidy
and Miss A. Simpson
The marriage took place on Saturday, June 7, in the Conservatory, Barbican Centre, City of London, of Mr Michael Cassidy to Miss Amelia Simpson.

A reception was held afterwards in the Garden Room.

Mr F. Fabrizio
and Miss S.E. Mackeson-Sandbach
The marriage took place on June 6, in London, of Fabio Fabrizio, only son of Mr and Mrs Franco Fabrizio, of Lecce, Italy, and Sara Emilie Mackeson-Sandbach, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Mackeson-Sandbach, of London.

Mr C. Passey
and Miss C. Hadfield
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 31, 1997, in Portsmouth, between Colin Passey and Caroline Hadfield.

A reception was held at The Millstream Hotel, Bosham.

Mr W.M. Ross
and Mrs J. Fletcher
The marriage took place on Wednesday, June 4, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Arkesden, Essex, of Mr Walter M. Ross, of Houston, Texas, and Mrs Jean Fletcher, of Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire. The Rev Duncan McGuffie officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her son, Mr Christopher Fletcher, was attended by Alexandra, Jasmine and Antonia Newey. Mr Mark Newey was best man.

Mr D.R. Walters
and Miss E.C. Kimber
The marriage took place on June 7, 1997, at Gray's Inn Chapel, between Russell, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Walters, of Cwmdare, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Kimber, of Putney.

Service dinners

RN Engineers' Dining Club
Rear-Admiral J.A. Trewby presided at a dinner of the Royal Naval Engineers' Dining Club held last night at the Naval Club. Professor A.N. Broers, FRS, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, was the principal guest.

Cuidich'n Righ Club
The annual dinner of the Cuidich'n Righ Club, Duke of Albany's Club, was held last night at Claridge's. Mr A.G. Tritton presided.

Dinners

Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and their ladies were entertained at a dinner at the Mansion House last night by the Master, Mr James Smillie. Wardens and Members of the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company. The speakers were Mr Robert Croall, Senior Warden, and Miss Jan Leeming.

Academy of Experts
Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, President of the Academy of Experts, was the host at the annual president's dinner held last night at Gray's Inn Hall. Among those present were:
Lord Justice Saville, Lord Wilberforce, Sir Christopher Paine, Judge Esyr Lewis, QC, Judge Bowsher, QC, Professor Jean Donio, Ms Heather Hallett, QC, Dr Paul Knappman, Mr Nigel Nicholls, Mr Ian Walker, Mr Tony Webster, Mr Owen Luder, Mr Geoffrey Beresford-Hartwell and Mr James Hudson.

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers & Jurists
The International Association of Jewish Lawyers & Jurists held a dinner on June 3 in the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn to honour the appointment of their UK President, Lord Woolf, as Master of the Rolls. Guests included delegates from 23 countries attending the World Congress of the Association which took place in London from June 1-3. Lord Lester of Herne Hill proposed the toast to Lord Woolf, to which Lord Woolf replied. Her Honour Myrella Cohen, QC (Chairman of the UK Branch), and Patricia May (Honorary Secretary) also spoke. A presentation was made to Lord Woolf by Jonathan Goldberg, QC (Vice-President).

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Do you imagine - you that pass judgement on the guilty while committing the sames crimes yourself - do you imagine that you, any more than they, will escape God's judgement? Romans 2 : 3

BIRTHS

ADAMS - On 2nd June, to Jane (née Law) and Giles, a daughter, Sophia, a sister for James.

ARNANDER - On June 4th 1997, to Eleanor (née Wilson) and Conrad, a son.

BALL - On 5th June at The Rosie, Cambridge, to Catriona (née Stewart) and Simon, a son, Edward Barnaby, a brother for Charlotte Rose.

CRONIN - On 31st May, to Morven (née MacKean) and Paddy, a son, Fionn Donal.

DIBLEY - On 2nd June at Wycombe General Hospital, to Carole (née Lester) and Stuart, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte (Charley) Carole. A grandchild for Joan and Denis, Betty and John.

HAINS - On June 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Dani (née Duclos) and Richard, a daughter, Helena Christina May, a sister for Max and Olivia.

HOLLAMBY - On 17th April 1997, to Susannah (née Springall) and Dominic, a daughter, Cosima Serena Grace, a sister for Arabella.

JOHNSTON - On June 9th, to Amanda (née Mason) and Philip, a son, Christian Edward.

MASON - On June 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Julia (née Brown) and David, a daughter, Holly Victoria, a sister for Matthew.

ORATORE - On June 9th, to Helene (née Christodoulou) and Vincent, a beautiful daughter, Isabella Sophia, a sister for Alexandra.

BIRTHS

ROSENFELD - On June 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Mark and Laurie, a son - Many thanks to Mr Charles Wright.

SANDERSON - On 9th June 1997 at St Thomas' Hospital, to Fiona (née Ure) and David, a daughter, Hannah Clare.

SINHA - On June 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Jayshri (née Varma) and Ravi, a son, Rajiv Rahul, a brother for Aleksandra Arjun.

SPROULL - On 21st May 1997, Daisy, first child of proud parents Daniel and Lianne Sproull of Rilla Mill, Cornwall.

WEST - On June 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicola and Jonathan, a daughter, Alice, a sister for Charlie.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

PENNING-ROWSELL: WINTRINGHAM - On 12th June 1937 at Chelsea Old Church, Edmund Penning-Rowsell to Margaret Wintringham. Now residing in Wootton, Woodstock, Oxford OX20 1EG.

DEATHS

ATTWOOD - John peacefully at Milford Hospital, Surrey, aged 69. HAC, Historian. Well loved brother, uncle and great-uncle. Funeral, Wednesday 18th June, 12 noon at St John the Baptist Church in Wolverley, near Kidderminster, followed by burial at St Peter's Church, Cookley. Family flowers but if desired donations to the British Heart Foundation, London, (0171) 935-0185.

DEATHS

CALDWELL - David William MRCVS Major Rtd RAVC 294627, husband of Dorothy, father of Michael, Alastair and the late William, grandfather of Elizabeth, Ruth, James and Phoebe, great-grandfather of Joseph and Isabel. Died peacefully at home June 9th. Privately cremated June 12th. Communications to 13 Long Beach Road, Russell Bay of Islands, New Zealand, tel: 00649 403 7721.

CANDLISH - Ian James Elsmore, Major, RA. (Ret'd). Died on June 5th, aged 72, after a short illness. Ian will be sadly missed by his wife Margaret, children Marian, David, Robert and Peter and grandchildren John, Simon, Katy, Becci, CJ and Zoe, plus Gerry, Lynn, and Cally. Funeral service - 2 pm, Friday 13th June at St Lawrence Church, Winslow, Bucks.

CARTON - Victor. On 2nd June after a short illness. Will be much missed by sons and daughters-in-law Noel and Sharon; Paul and Ann and granddaughters Clare and Emma and his sister Marjorie "Billie". Service at West Norwood Crematorium, S. London, 20th June at 2pm. Flowers to Co-operative Funeral Service, 153 Streatham High Road, SW16 or if preferred donations to Friends of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

DAWSON - Charles died 6th June 1997. Service to be held at 1 pm at Shearing Church on Friday 20th June 1997. Family flowers only. Donations please to National Asthma Campaign, Providence House, Providence Place, London W1 0NT.

DENNISON - Brian M.B. ChB. D.A. FFARCS. (Lt. Col.). A tragic loss to his wife Sally and daughter Tanya, will be sadly missed by his brother Edward and sisters Valerie and Jacqueline.

ELLIS - Frank Charles of Esher, Surrey. On June 9th 1997 shortly after his 90th birthday celebrations in April with family and friends. Much loved husband of the late Laura, father of Michael and Caroline, and grandfather to Simon, James, Sarah and Louisa. Cremation at Randalls Park, Leatherhead on Wednesday, June 18th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations for The Princess Alice Hospice c/o J. Stoneman & Sons, Dorah Court, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 6AZ.

ELLMAN - Ruth Penelope (née Lewis) on 6th June 1997, dearly loved wife of Antony, mother of Thomas and Matthew, sister of Naomi, Gilbert and Julian. Funeral private, memorial service later. Details 15 Vine Road, SW13 0NE.

FREELAND - Katherine Joan, née Wilkinson, passed peacefully away 10th June 1997. Will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral Service to take place Tuesday 17th June at Cambridge City Crematorium, West Chapel at 2.30p.m. All enquiries to the Funeral Directors, Russell D. Green, tel: 01799 513513.

HERVEY - Ronald Frederick William died suddenly at home on 4th June aged 77. Dearly loved brother of the late Patricia, he will be sadly missed by his children Tim and Jenny and his grandchildren Becky, Hannah, Ben, Robbie and Richy. Funeral Service at Woking St John's Crematorium on Tuesday 17th June at 12 noon. Flowers from family and close friends only please. Any donations to St John's Ambulance c/o Egham & Hythe, 98 Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, TW20 8BN, tel: 01784 464749. A Memorial Service will be held at Christ Church, Virginia Water on Wednesday 27th August at 12 noon.

JOINER - Jennifer Jane (née Sherris) of Yarm, on 10th June at West Lane Hospital, Middlesbrough, after a long illness, courageously borne. Dearly loved wife of Paul, mother of Toby and mother-in-law of Susan. Service to be held in St Bede's Chapel, Teesside Crematorium, 10.30am Monday 16th June 1997. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to South Tees Area Trust Fund, Neurology West Lane Trust, Middlesbrough General Hospital.

KINGSMILL - Beatrice May (Peggy) passed on peacefully at the age of 101 on June 5th at her home in Denham. Dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. Private cremation followed by a Thanksgiving Service on Monday June 16th at 3pm at St Mary's Church, Denham Village. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Christian Aid or St Mary's Church, Denham.

KOPPENHOUT - Irwin Anthony (Tony) on 6th June aged 64 at Royal Marsden, Sutton. Beloved husband of Mary, much loved father of Michael and Sheena and father-in-law of Anna. Requiem Mass at St Winefrides, Latimer Road, South Wimbledon, on Tuesday 17th June at 12 noon. Burial at 1 pm at Merton and Sutton Cemetery, Garth Road. Rather than send flowers please make donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

MOELLER - Wilfred on June 11th at home in Bury St Edmunds. Beloved husband of Joan and the late Vera. Father of Peter and David, stepfather of Lynsey and Colin. Grandfather and great-grandfather. Private family funeral. Memorial Service to be announced.

PEECH - Neil Malcolm peacefully on 10th June 1997 aged 89 years. Beloved husband of the late Peggy. Much loved father of June and Malcolm and dear grandfather. Family cremation. No letters please.

RHODES - On June 7th suddenly at home aged 77 years, Alan Bertram Rhodes of Bishop Monkton, Harrogate, N. Yorks. Dear brother of Lynette and Hazel and cousin of Joan. Requiem Mass and the committal will take place at St Joseph's R.C. Church, Bishop Thornton, Harrogate on Monday June 16th at 12 noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired may be given to the church.

SHROFF - On June 9th. Suddenly, Katy, beloved wife of Nariman and mother of Dini, Freni and Rusi. Funeral Service and cremation at York Crematorium on Friday 13th June at 1.30 pm. No flowers by request. Donations if desired for Leukaemia Research.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

HARBOTTLE - Celebration Service for the life of Michael Harbottle Tuesday July 8th 11.30 am at St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

DUNN - Lasting memories of Douglas who died tragically in the Sahara Desert on 12th June 1992.

GOOSSENS - Léon Jean CBE. Born this day in 1897. Remembered always with deep love and pride by his daughters Jennie and Corinne and his sister Sidonie.

BIRTHDAYS

SMITHER Kathleen. Is One Hundred years old today. Love and congratulations.

WANTED

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, fans, patchwork quilts, embroideries, samplers, oriental articles, shawls, textiles, costume jewellery etc 0171 229 9618

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OBITUARIES

ALEXANDER KAZHDAN

Alexander Kazhdan, Byzantine scholar, died in Washington on May 29, aged 74. He was born in Moscow on September 22, 1922.

Alexander Kazhdan would have seen no significance in the fact that he died on the anniversary of the fall of Constantinople. He was a great Byzantinist, whose vast and varied writings have profoundly influenced modern understanding of Europe's one true thousand-year empire, but he had little time for romantic mythologies either of his subject or of himself.

His life could be construed as dramatic, but for him the dramas were mere distractions. Not that he was modest. He knew his worth as a fact, and his assuredness helped him to survive. But he preferred honesty to vanity, and could be as critical of himself as of others.

Alexander Petrovich Kazhdan was born into the first fully Soviet generation: a generation schooled in the cultural xenophobia and rhetorical zealotry of high Stalinism. Some became true believers, others crafted devices to survive. Kazhdan coped. He was no dissident. In the 1930s and 1940s, dissidence was plain suicide; scholarly integrity was quite perilous enough. And Kazhdan was a Jew. He was created a Jew more by anti-Semitism than by any strong personal sense of Jewish identity. Yet his career was defined by his treatment as a Jew rather than as a Russian, a Soviet citizen or a scholar.

The postwar years were the worst. In 1947, after completing his graduate studies at Moscow University, Kazhdan was — as a Jew — unemployable in the research institutions of the capital. Given the successive paranoid campaigns of scapegoat-hunting, he was barely employable in the provinces either. For a decade he held and lost a series of low-grade teaching posts in places scarcely renowned as havens of Byzantinological endeavour: Ivanovo, Tula, Velikie Luki.

Then came the thaw, and a return to Moscow. From 1956, he was at the Soviet Academy of Science's Institute of History, where, despite the niggling officiousness of the smug semi-scholars who had manipulated their way to the positions of power, he would probably have lived for the rest of his career in relative contentment. But Kazhdan's son was more committed to Jewish identity, and in 1976 he emigrated. The resultant hostility and petty persecution persuaded Kazhdan that he must follow suit.

In February 1979 he arrived in Washington, at the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies. In the Soviet Union he officially ceased to exist or to have existed. His name was taboo, even in footnotes. He did not visit his homeland again until August 1991, when Moscow hosted the international Congress of Byzantine Studies, just one week before the failed coup that signalled the end of the Soviet State.

From Ivanovo to Georgetown would for many have been an odyssey of aspiration. For Kazhdan it was accidental, unsought, and all very inconvenient. He had never asked for anything other than to get on with his work, which he did, at an astonishing rate, throughout. The flow of books and articles and reviews was almost constant and sometimes torrential: from his early work in the relatively safe field of agrarian and urban history, through the social analysis of élites, to studies of literature and authors, structures of power, culture and *mentalité*.

It would be wrong, however, to say that he was impervious to his surroundings. On the contrary, the Soviet experience — rather than an acceptance of Soviet ideology — helped to shape his approach to Byzantium. In the Soviet Union he saw the deep rift between presentation and substance, between rhetoric and life, between the official formulae of collective solidarity and the private tensions. For him this was Byzantium. Historians from Gibbon almost to the present had been hoodwinked by the apparent stability and traditionalism of Byzantine rhetoric.

Kazhdan was convinced that Byzantium was, instead, a dynamic, changing, even innovative society, not just the slow-burning afterglow of Old Rome. He believed that Byzantium's culture was one of individual writers and artists, not just of imitative hacks concerned only with the preservation of style. All one had to do was learn to read carefully, to crack the cultural code. His mission (though he would not have labelled it thus) was to release Byzantium from the prison of its own self-presentation. If such claims are now close to being truisms, Kazhdan bears much of the responsibility.

A deflater of waffle by instinct and profession, Kazhdan did not waste words on tact. Editing his last and maximal opus, the elephantine *Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, he spiked a good few egos with scribbles like "rubbish", "no", "wrong" on distinguished colleagues' carefully drafted contributions. His criticisms were not personal, though sometimes they were taken as such.

He was quite happy to be refuted, for truth mattered more than his own opinion. And he never stopped. His most recent published article was on an obscure passage in Joseph the Hymnographer. He attached a note to an offprint that he sent to a colleague: no chit-chat, no niceties of news or well-wishing, simply: "Please understand that this is only a hypothesis."

Seemingly a prickly individualist, he was actually a generous collaborator, puzzled that the collective preening rituals called conferences so often take precedence in the West over real collaboration in research. In 1979, Dumbarton Oaks, under Giles Constable, was going through a difficult period of restructuring. Jeremiahs lamented that it was becoming merely a research "facility". Kazhdan's presence helped to ensure the renewal of its culture as a centre of excellence, and as a community.

At Dumbarton Oaks he learnt to relax. He loved the gardens and appreciated the founders' belief that scholarship thrives in beautiful surroundings. He died at a moment of contentment, quickly, after his daily swim, beside the Dumbarton Oaks pool on a warm May evening.

He is survived by his wife Musya, whom he married in 1944.

SIR RENN DAVIS

Sir Renn Davis, OBE, Judge of Appeal in Gibraltar and Chief Justice for the Falkland Islands, died from a heart attack on June 6 aged 68. He was born on November 20, 1928.

AS CHIEF JUSTICE in Gibraltar between 1980 and 1986, Renn Davis saw the start of a significant rise in its crime rate, reflecting the colony's attractions for drug smugglers and its growing importance as a finance centre. But he missed being involved in the Rock's most dramatic incident of the decade, leaving there on the same day that undercover soldiers from the Special Air Service killed three IRA terrorists in the town centre.

Davis, who had spent most of his career in the colonial legal service, did not retire completely. No sooner had he reached for his slippers than he was offered the part-time appointment of Chief Justice for the Falkland Islands, to which were subsequently added the duties of an Appeal Court Judge for Gibraltar and similar judicial posts for the British Antarctic Territory, the Indian Ocean Territory and St Helena. He had been due to fly to Port Stanley next month for his second visit to the Falklands this year.

Dermot Renn Davis was born at Molo, amid the lush green pastures of what were then known as Kenya's White Highlands. His father who was half-French, half-Irish and had served with the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War, owned a hotel there with its own golf course, fishing rights and stables.

The plan was for Renn (the name's origins are obscure) to be educated at Cheltenham College in this country. But the ship carrying his Common Entrance papers was sunk in the war and his mother, fearing that her only son might suffer a similar fate, sent him instead to the Prince of Wales boarding school in Nairobi.

He became head boy there and won a place to read law at Wadham College, Oxford (his headmaster's alma mater). University also enabled him to indulge his lifelong passion for amateur theatricals.

Called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1953, he practised for three years in a Nairobi law firm before being called up for National Service during the Mau Mau emergency. He was drafted into the Kenya Attorney-General's chambers to help cope with the mounting workload for government lawyers, then moved on to become a prosecuting counsel in the provinces.

The experience reshaped Davis's career. Opting to stay in the colonial legal service, he left Kenya in 1962 to become Attorney-General in the Solomon Islands and legal adviser to Western Pacific High Commission.

In 1973 he moved to the New Hebrides condominium as the British judge. He had a French counterpart there and Davis's fluent French no doubt influenced his selection. But after three years he was back in the Solomons as Chief Justice, before moving to a similar position in Gibraltar in 1980. Appointed OBE in 1971, he was knighted in 1981.

A tall, genial, hospitable man with a gift for mimicry, Renn Davis's kindness and patience made him popular in court, both as a barrister and a judge. It was said that to accompany him along Main Street, Gibraltar, took twice as long as it should because of the number of people he stopped to talk to.

He was an enthusiastic theatregoer and conscientious tourist. When visiting a cathedral he would customarily reserve the morning for examining the outside then the afternoon for the interior — something of a challenge for his less meticulous companions. He was also an accomplished fly fisherman.

But his favourite recreation was listening to music, about which he was extremely knowledgeable. A regular concertgoer, he died after collapsing with a heart attack on the London Underground while on his way to Heathrow — to fly with the Handel Society to a music festival in Halle in Germany, the composer's birthplace.

He did not marry until he was 56, although he had known his wife Mary as a student. Her family had been neighbours of his uncle and aunt in the New Forest, where he had spent his holidays while at Oxford. They married in 1984, several years after her first husband had died in a road accident. Sir Renn Davis is survived by her and by his two sisters.

LI SHUXIAN

Li Shuxian at her husband's grave in Hebei province on China's Tomb Sweeping Day, April 5, in 1996

Li Shuxian, widow of China's last emperor, died in Beijing on June 9 aged 73. She was born in 1924.

THE final choice in a series of wives and concubines to the last Chinese emperor, Pu Yi, who ruled briefly from 1908 to 1911, Li Shuxian was a beneficiary of China's nostalgia for its pre-revolutionary past to which the nation had latterly inclined. But both she and her husband, who died in 1967, had enjoyed preferential treatment for some time before that.

Mao Tse-tung, for all his reputation as the Great Leveller, nursed a sneaking regard for the last occupant of the Dragon Throne. When, in 1959, Pu Yi was released from prison, where he had languished since 1950 after being turned over to Chinese Communists by the Russians, Mao invited him to dine with him at Zhongnanhai, Beijing's equivalent of the Kremlin. He next told his Prime Minister Chou En-lai to look after Pu Yi who was, as a result, translated from a menial job transplanting seedlings in the Beijing botanical gardens to a more congenial job as a historical researcher.

Chou was also deputed to find the former emperor a wife and, after ten introductions which taxed even the pragmatic premier's patience, Li Shuxian, a nurse twenty years his junior, and an admirably practical woman, was found acceptable. They were married in 1962. "People told him him he shouldn't be so picky because he wasn't an emperor any more," Li Shuxian said in later years.

Whether the union was as satisfactory to him as she evidently found it, or whether she was a shrew who nagged him mercilessly, is less certain. Impotent from sexual maturity, he was unable to give her the child for which she had always yearned. But he opened up a social life for her of a sort she could never have expected on her own, taking her to the opera and going dancing with her.

There were also spin-offs from the worldwide attention which was enjoyed by the Bertolucci film *The Last Emperor* of 1987, though the last emperor's widow always claimed it was inaccurate about the facts of her husband's life.

Pu Yi, who had been born on February 7, 1906, was only three when he ascended the Dragon Throne, and a mere six when his family, bowing to pressure from Sun Yat-sen's revolutionaries, arranged for him to abdicate, thus ending the 268-year-old Qing dynasty and 3,000 years of imperial rule. He had continued to live in the imperial palace until evicted by a warlord in 1924. Subsequently he served as a figurehead ruler in the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo (Manchuria), carved out of Chinese territory by the invaders in 1931. He was there when Soviet troops invaded Manchuria in the dying days of the Second World War, and after being captured and incarcerated for five years by the Russians, was passed into Chinese Communist hands.

After "re-education" he settled down to a retired life. His biography *From Emperor to Citizen*, a ghosted affair, was published in 1964.

His last years were not especially happy. The Cultural Revolution was in full swing and, in spite of the patronage of Chou, he was, in the politically correct spirit of the times, forced by Red Guards to move from a private hospital room to a public ward, to continue his treatment for cancer.

Li also had some difficult encounters during this period. On one occasion Red Guards ransacked her house, taking away anything that smacked of "old" Chinese culture and customs.

After his death, Li Shuxian, too, remained inconspicuous. On April 5, 1995, China's annual Tomb Sweeping Day, she emerged briefly into the public eye when her husband's ashes were reburied on a hillside in Hebei province among the tombs of other Qing dynasty emperors.

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ON THIS DAY

June 12, 1854

There is still a Crystal Palace station; buses have indicators to Crystal Palace and a football team bears the name. Alas, nothing remains of Paxton's magnificent building — a triumph of Victorian enterprise. The palace was burnt to the ground in November 1936.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE

On Saturday Her Majesty the Queen opened the Crystal Palace. An occasion which thus attracted to one common centre not only the aristocracy of birth, but that of intelligence and of industry throughout the country, may justly be called national. Conducted with somewhat less of State observance than the inauguration of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, that of yesterday drew together larger numbers of people, had the advantage of being celebrated in a far more imposing structure, and preserved the appropriate character of a grand popular demonstration even in the presence of Royalty.

The whole spectacle, associated with other events at present strongly occupying the public attention, could hardly fail to impress all who witnessed it with a sense of gratitutde to the Almighty who permits England, while descending into the arena as the champion of western civilization means. Two years have not passed since the same building in which so vast a concourse was on Saturday assembled stood at the west end of London, and the heights of Penge still looked down in rural seclusion upon pleasant grass fields which had nothing about them to break the quiet beauties of a Surrey landscape. This time three years ago all the world appeared to be surrendering itself to a delightful vision of peace among nations cemented by commerce and industry.

The aspect of Europe has changed as greatly as that of Sydenham but while our fleets and armies, in conjunction with those of Franco, oppose themselves to warfare abroad, we do not falter at home in the career of useful labour. We remember that the burdens and trials of war can best be borne by those who most successfully study the arts of peace, and that victory is the prize, not the prowess, but of superior intelligence. Yet a great and enlightened nation pursues the path of improvement for its own sake, and not for the accessory power which it imparts. The marine engine and the screw propeller were not invented for line-of-battle ships, and industry in this sense is, like virtue, its own reward.

It is requisite that these considerations should be borne in mind, or otherwise future generations might think ill of us when they read that at the outset of a great war we spent more than a million of money in erecting a palace for the people. That palace, it is proper to state, is no product of sentimental or philanthropic enterprise, but a strictly commercial speculation undertaken with a deliberate view to profit.

To any one who asks what are the public objects subserved by the Crystal Palace Company we point out three prominent lessons from the Great Exhibition of 1851.

It was proved, in the first place, that the people of England were exceedingly deficient in the knowledge of the fine arts and their application to useful manufacturers. Secondly, it was shown that great facilities existed among us for the construction of vast covered spaces, protected against the influences of our variable climate. Lastly, it was established that such structures, provided in the vicinity of populous towns, might secure important social benefits, and with prudent management be fairly remunerative.

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

NEWS

Hong Kong flying visit for Blair

■ Tony Blair is to boycott China's attempts to secure legitimacy for Hong Kong's unelected legislature at the events marking the territory's return to Beijing.

The Prime Minister will attend the midnight handover ceremony on June 30 but not the new body's inauguration, and will fly back to London almost immediately..................**Page 1**

Surrogate mothers face tighter controls

■ Laws to impose greater controls on surrogate motherhood will be considered by an independent inquiry set up by the Government yesterday after a recent series of cases that have highlighted the way existing legislation is failing to prevent its commercialisation. Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, told the Commons that she had decided to set up the independent review because of public concern about the issue ....**Page 1**

Border progress

President Chirac of France gave a positive response last night to Tony Blair in his battle to maintain Britain's border controls at the forthcoming Amsterdam conference........................**Page 1**

Alien express

Four illegal immigrants from Moldova were being questioned after entering Britain crammed under the false floor of a Eurostar train that was travelling at speeds of up to 185 mph...............**Page 1**

Marked cards

MPs may use swipe cards to cast their votes in the House of Commons in future as part of a drive to modernise some of the more archaic workings of the House of Commons ....**Page 2**

'Deserter' freed

The French authorities released Henry Tuson, a British man who was seized at the Channel Tunnel for allegedly dodging French military service........................**Page 3**

Intuitively so

Female intuition is more than just girl talk. Scientists say it is the truth: women really are better at detecting nuances and reading social situations................**Page 5**

Rocky oil protest

Greenpeace have set up a base on Rockall, off northwest Scotland, and say they will stay until the Government stops oil exploration in the Atlantic....................**Page 8**

House prices up

Property prices rose by more than 8 per cent nationally over the past year, with prices doubling in some parts of London.......**Page 9**

Detectives jailed

Two British private detectives working for drug companies to stop bogus firms copying their drugs were jailed for 18 months in Cyprus claiming they were victims of a sting.................**Page 14**

Australian 'genocide'

The forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their parents from 1918 to the 1960s fitted the legal definition of genocide, according to the judge heading a commission into the "stolen generation"......................**Page 16**

Reluctant conquest

The reported reluctance of Moshe Dayan, Defence Minister during the 1967 Six-Day War, to occupy Arab territories was reaffirmed by a former general who fought with him at the time....... **Page 17**

Union on track

A Franco-German summit is expected to ease the single currency back on to its shaky launch rails and clear the way for a new Union treaty.................... **Page 18**

Brazzaville 'butchers'

French nationals evacuated by Foreign Legionnaires from fighting in Brazzaville said they had left behind a city of "butchery" and devastation............... **Page 19**

Derby fraud takes punters for a ride

■ Police are hunting a fake bookmaker who set up a pitch at the Epsom Derby and fled with an estimated £40,000 after offering favourable odds on the favourite, Entrepreneur. By the time Benny the Dip had come home at 11-1 the fraudster had gone. Punters were left with betting slips with his code-name Lucan: Lord Lucan vanished nearly 20 years ago......... **Page 5**

CHRIS HELGREN / REUTER

Prunella Scales, the actress, joins pensioners from Chelsea's Royal Hospital at a tea party held to raise funds for ex-servicemen

BUSINESS

No windfall: Nationwide would be valued at £7 billion if it opted for a stock market listing, according to a valuation conducted on behalf of the building society............**Page 27**

BCCI bills: Fees arising from the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have topped $300 million (£185 million), enraging creditors, and prompting calls for a government inquiry ....**Page 27**

ITV pressure: Granada increased pressure for a shake-up of regulations governing ITV, suggesting ITV would ultimately be controlled by just one player ....**Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 14.8 to 4,724.8. On the foreign exchange the pound fell .27 cents to $1.6368 .... **Page 30**

SPORT

Football: In winning the Tournoi de France, England discovered a spirit of unity and a consistency and sense of purpose in their performance........................**Page 52**

Rugby union: The rise of Carel du Plessis, once known as the "Prince of Wings", to coach the Springboks was influenced by the politics of South African rugby .... **Page 48**

Cricket: The first day of the Australians' match against Nottinghamshire was washed out, leaving them only five more days to prepare for the second Test at Lord's.............................. **Page 49**

Tennis: Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, was knocked out of the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 by Scott Draper, of Australia........................... **Page 50**

ARTS

Cheap thrills: Sunday is National Cinema Day when all seats will cost £1, but the week's new releases — including Whoopi Goldberg's *The Associate* — offer few enticements.........................**Page 37**

Kosher laughs: On the other hand, the London Jewish Film Festival on the South Bank showcases some lost delights and an irresistible brand of humour ....**Page 37**

Marriage lines: Best of the new videos this week is *The First Wives Club*, an excuse for Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler to vie for laughs ....**Page 38**

Double trouble: When a touring company of eight tackles *The Winter's Tale*, a play that lists 15 named parts, there is bound to be some confusion ....**Page 39**

FEATURES

Ulcer attack: The British Digestive Foundation is using the case history of a soap opera character to publicise its campaign about the best treatment for peptic ulceration and allied conditions .... **Page 20**

Eastern danger: Throughout the Far East hepatitis A and B are endemic, reports Dr Thomas Stuttaford, who advises visitors on precautions .... **Page 20**

For Evans sake: Chris Evans talks to Mariella Frostrup about ambition, his mates and his father's death ....**Page 21**

TRAVEL

Grand hotel: Black investors own 51 per cent of South Africa's grandest new hotel, the £32 million Table Bay, opened by President Mandela............................ **Page 43**

BOOKS

Undying love: Erica Wagner on Bram Stoker's *Dracula*; Anthony Storr on the legacy of Sigmund Freud .... **Pages 40, 41**

THE PAPERS

It is hard to see what Russia has to gain by the costly and time-consuming referendum that President Boris Yeltsin has proposed on whether or not to remove Lenin's embalmed body from its mausoleum in Red Square and bury it . . . Lenin should be moved, but there is no rush

— *Moscow Times*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP
Caitlin Moran on Radiohead, as David Sinclair reviews their new album

■ EDUCATION
An international survey reports a decline in British primary school standards

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Simon Shepherd returns as the scientist who attracts trouble. *Bliss* (ITV, 8.30pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on the public and private Dr Spock .... **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

Chancellor's twilight

Helmut Kohl has stayed on to fight this final electoral battle of his career out of fear that no successor could be trusted to put Europe, and EMU, first. In so doing, he shows weakness, not strength...... **Page 23**

Time for clarity

William Hague does not need to pass a purity test. That would be an arid exercise. He should simply show the same boldness in saying what he will do as leader as he has shown in fighting for the leadership................................ **Page 23**

General issue

The United States front line now seems to have more to fear from interest groups and politicians than any foreign foe. This, in the words of General Anthony McAuliffe, is "nuts"...............................**Page 23**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

One of the lessons of the Blair campaign is that elections are cultural and not intellectual events. That, I suspect, is why Oxford beats Cambridge even more regularly at Westminster than it loses at Mortlake...........................**Page 22**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Should the BBC devolve, giving Scotland proper autonomy? And if it does, what will viewers and listeners want in Scotland and Wales? .... **Page 22**

PETER RIDDELL

The success of the Blair Government will largely be determined by the results of the comprehensive spending review. This was launched in a statement that was long on aspiration but short on substance...........................**Page 13**

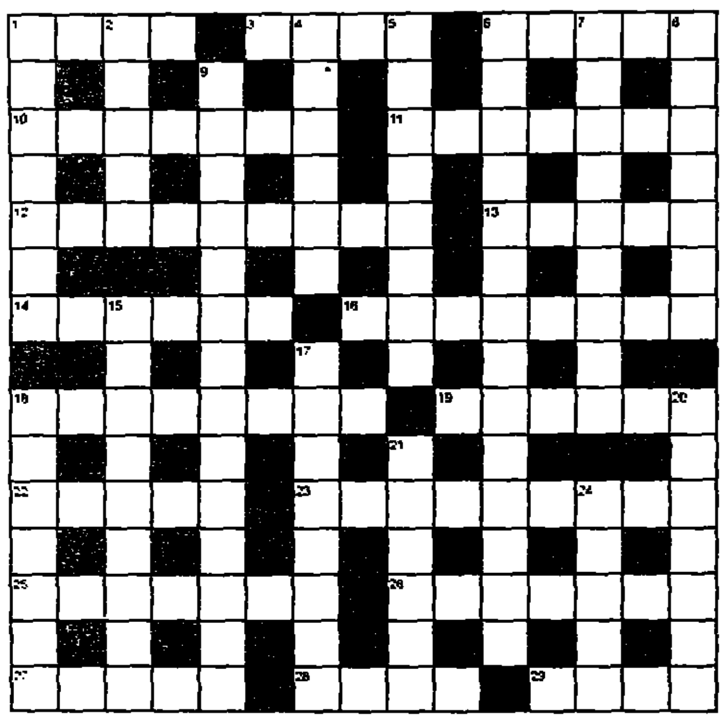
OBITUARIES

Alexander Kazhdan, Byzantine scholar; **Sir Renn Davis**, Judge of Appeal in Gibraltar; **Li Shuxian**, widow of China's last Emperor ....**Page 25**

LETTERS

Conservative leadership election; saving the Alexandra Palace mast; support for mothers who stay at home...............................**Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,504



ACROSS

1 Try starting the engine — starting's tricky (4).
3 Neighbour is musician (retired) (4).
6 Footing bill initially unadjusted (5).
10 She dispenses product of fermentation and support (7).
11 Vet gets small creature to swallow first of pills (7).
12 Colour of port (9).
13 Protest with new malevolent spirit (5).
14 Duck is blue, apart from tail (6).
16 Fancy stitching round end of skirt (8).
18 Hen revealing beetle (8).
19 Small type used for sentimental book (6).
22 US drug squad officers get provisions reversed (5).
23 Class passionate and noisy (9).
25 Run down cart due to be replaced (7).
26 Screen formerly in Hollywood region (7).
27 Younger son acted improperly (5).
28 Is an echo, to some extent, sound in one's mind? (4).
29 Electricity network can give you shock, they say (4).

DOWN

1 Asian giant having to live in concealment (7).
2 Seductive woman creating resentment between partners (5).
4 Chap's given family the needle (6).
5 One entitled to wear blue flannel, perhaps (8).
6 Where switch often is irrelevant (6,3,5).
7 Second XI's stylish transport (9).
8 Demonstrated extraterrestrial material (7).
9 A naughty dog might be very surprising (4,3,7).
15 Deceptive sort of pitch (9).
17 18 *dn* people who are outstanding (8).
18 Getting involved in a cult is crazy (7).
20 Historical character stupidly made one slip (7).
21 Women kicking up in prisons (3-3).
24 Held up a long time, second last in series (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

Solution to Puzzle No 20,503

```
CHARLESTON STAG
A N O U W   O E
SHOESTRING BURN
H T E E I O R E
 SHOO FINANCIER
S E N I G E S O
CARFERRY SHAMUS
O   S E D O   I
RELICT OUTRIGHT
E I O S E S A Y
BETROTHAL ENVY 
O H L I L R O T
AVER ANTIMATTER
R L   T S C T E
DAYS BOTTLENECK
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises	Sun sets
4.43 am	9.18 pm
Moon sets	**Moon rises**
12.52 am	12.07 pm

First quarter June 13
London 9.18 pm to 4.43 am
Bristol 9.27 pm to 4.53 am
Edinburgh 9.59 pm to 4.27 am
Manchester 9.38 pm to 4.40 am
Penzance 9.52 pm to 5.12 am

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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales should see some sunny intervals, but western areas will be cloudier and there could be a few showers. These may also affect eastern areas later. Northern England could have more persistent rain in the evening. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with rain at times.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N, NE England:** cloud will clear leaving most places dry with sunny intervals. Showers later. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Warm, max 23C (73F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District:** mostly cloudy. Some brighter intervals and showers. Wind south or southwest, moderate. Max 22C, (72F).

☐ **Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** cloudy with light rain. Wind mostly light and variable. Max 18C, (64F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney:** cloudy with rain at times. Wind northeasterly, fresh to strong. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Shetland:** dry at first with bright intervals, but becoming cloudier with rain. Wind fresh, northeasterly, becoming strong. Max 13C, (55F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain or showers, but becoming dry in the North and West.

☐ **Pollen:** low in all areas except for south Wales, the Midlands, southeast and central southern England, where it will be moderate.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail, r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun, t=thunder

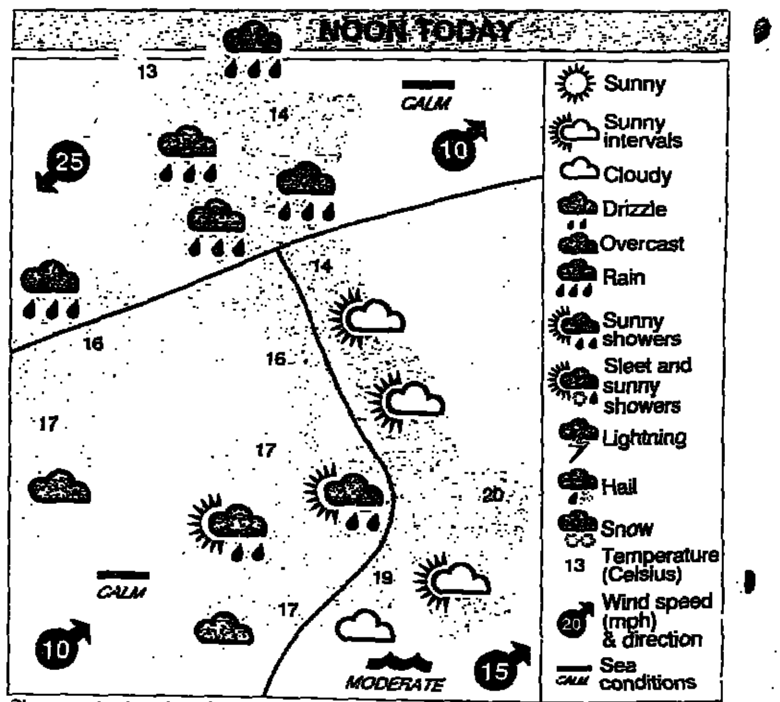
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	x				
Anglesey	-	0.44	17	63	c
Aspatria	-	0.54	15	59	r
Aviemore	0.6	0.13	16	61	r
Belfast	-	0.32	13	55	r
Birmingham	0.8	0.43	22	72	d
Bournem'th	3.4	0.84	19	66	sh
Bristol	3.9	0.13	24	75	b
Burton	-	0.62	17	63	fg
Cardiff	5.4	0.67	22	72	b
Clacton	6.8	2.13	17	63	r
Colwyn Bay	0.4	0.42	18	64	c
Cromer	0.8	0.13	17	63	r
Dunbar	-	0.37	12	54	r
Edinburgh	-	0.50	12	54	r
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.30	12	54	r
Exmouth	2.6	0.94	19	66	sh
Falmouth	3.2	0.36	18	64	c
Fishguard	3.2	0.56	20	68	d
Folkestone	5.4	1.36	21	70	b
Glasgow	-	0.37	13	55	r
Guernsey	4.1	0.22	19	66	sh
Hayling I.	2.8	0.16	19	66	sh
Hove	4.3	0.20	20	68	c
Hunstanton	1.0	0.28	18	64	r
Isle of Man	-	0.61	14	57	d
Jersey	4.7	0.12	21	70	sh
Kinloss	0.5	0.02	17	63	r
Leeds	-	0.96	15	59	r
Lerwick	3.0		11	52	fg
Leuchars		0.31	13	55	r
London	1.8	0.26	24	75	r
Lowestoft	0.1	0.17	17	63	r
Manchester	0.1	0.60	18	64	r
Margate	6.0	1.00	23	73	r
Minehead	4.1	0.53	21	70	b
Morecambe	-	0.37	17	63	r
Newcastle	-	0.28	13	55	r
Newquay	5.5	0.27	20	68	b
Norwich	1.5	0.23	19	66	sh
Oxford	5.5	0.16	24	75	b
Penzance	x	0.50	18	64	d
Poole	1.6	0.43	23	73	b
Ross-on-wye	3.8	0.47	23	73	[illegible]
Ryde	x				
Salcombe	3.7	0.66	17	63	b
Saunton Snd	4.5	0.17	22	72	b
Scarboro'	0.2	0.18	12	54	r
Shanklin	2.3	0.11	21	70	b
Skegness	-	0.18	16	61	r
Southend	4.6	0.80	23	73	r
Southport	-	0.46	19	66	c
Stornoway	1.5	0.11	14	57	r
Swanage	3.4	0.41	20	68	c
Teignmouth	2.3	0.78	18	64	r
Tenby	2.8	0.84	18	64	s
Torquay	3.1	0.65	19	66	sh
Tynemouth	-	0.25	12	54	d
Ventnor	1.7	0.11	17	63	sh
Weymouth	3.3	0.40	17	63	s

ABROAD

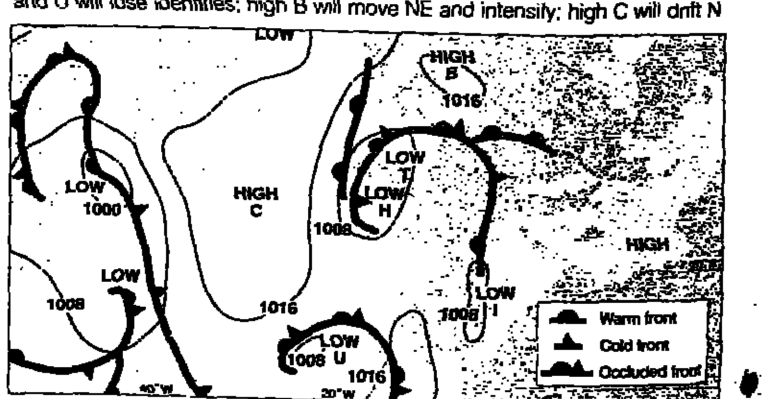
	C	F	
Ajaccio	26	79	s
Akrotiri	25	77	f
Alex'dria	25	77	s
Algiers	29	84	s
Amst'dm	22	72	s
Athens	29	84	f
Bahrain	36	97	s
Bangkok	34	93	s
Barbados	26	79	r
Barcelona	24	75	s
Beirut	26	79	f
Belgrade	25	77	[illegible]
Berlin	23	73	f
Bermuda	24	75	s
Biarritz	23	73	f
Borde'x	24	75	r
Brussels	25	77	s
Budapst	23	73	f
Cairo	29	84	f
Cape Tn	15	59	[illegible]
Ch'church	13	55	x
Chicago	26	79	s
Cologne	26	79	s
Corfu	29	84	-
C'phagn	19	66	s
Dublin	13	55	c
Dubrovnik	26	79	s
Faro	20	68	c
Florence	30	86	f
Frankfurt	26	79	s
Funchal	22	72	f
Genova	25	77	f
Gibraltar	25	77	s
Helsinki	23	73	s
Hong K	29	84	f
Innsbrck	27	81	f
Istanbul	22	72	f
Jeddah	35	95	s
Jo'burg	19	66	f
Karachi	x		
L Angels	21	70	s
L Palmas	24	75	c
Le Touquet	25	77	s
Lisbon	21	70	f
Locarno	24	75	f
Luxembg	25	77	s
Luxor	35	95	s
Madrid	25	77	f
Majorca	30	86	f
Malaga	23	73	f
Malta	29	84	s
Melb'rne	11	52	f
Mexico C	23	73	s
Miami	29	84	c
Milan	29	84	f
Montreal	29	84	s
Moscow	27	81	f
Munich	27	81	s
N Delhi	33	91	s
N York	30	86	s
Nairobi	24	75	c
Naples	30	86	s
Nice	27	81	f
Oslo	24	75	f
Paris	28	82	s
Peking	29	84	s
Perth	16	61	s
Prague	24	75	f
Reykjavik	9	48	s
Rhodes	26	79	s
Rio de J	23	73	f
Riyadh	43	100	s
Rome	29	84	s
S Fr'isco	20	68	s
S Paulo	19	66	s
Salzburg	26	79	s
Santiago	15	59	f
Seoul	28	82	s
Sing'por	33	91	f
St'kholm	24	75	s
Strasb'rg	27	81	s
Sydney	16	61	s
Tangier	24	75	f
Tel Aviv	26	79	f
Tenerife	26	79	f
Tokyo	26	79	s
Toronto	x		
Tunis	35	95	s
Valencia	26	79	f
Vanc'ver	18	64	[illegible]
Venice	28	82	s
Vienna	25	77	s
Warsaw	21	70	f
Wash'ton	31	88	s
Wel'ngton	16	61	x
Zurich	27	81	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low T will fill and absorb low H; lows I and U will lose identities; high B will move NE and intensify; high C will drift N



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	07.12	6.4	19.22	6.1
Aberdeen	06.46	3.6	19.32	3.4
Avonmouth	-	-	12.24	10.3
Belfast	04.30	3.2	17.08	2.8
Cardiff	-	-	12.10	9.7
Devonport	10.53	4.5	23.06	4.7
Dover	04.21	5.6	16.45	6.7
Dublin (N Wall)	05.11	3.6	17.49	3.4
Falmouth	10.24	4.3	22.37	4.5
Greenock	05.27	3.2	18.21	2.7
Harwich	04.59	3.4	17.06	3.3
Holyhead	03.34	4.8	16.12	4.5
Hull (Albert D)	11.35	7.5	-	-
Ilfracombe	11.20	7.3	23.40	7.3
King's Lynn	11.38	5.4		
Leith	08.12	4.6	20.41	4.5
Liverpool	04.23	8.0	16.54	7.8
Lowestoft	03.21	2.1	14.56	2.2
Margate	05.21	4.1	17.30	4.1
Milford Haven	11.39	5.4	-	-
Newquay	10.37	5.5	22.59	5.8
Oban	11.21	3.0	23.27	3.1
Penzance	10.07	4.4	22.29	4.5
Portland	-	-	12.12	1.2
Portsmouth	04.30	3.9	17.28	4.0
Shoreham	04.15	5.0	16.50	5.2
Southampton	03.57	3.9	16.33	4.0
Swansea	11.47	7.6	-	-
Tees	09.18	4.7	21.57	4.4
Walton-on-N	04.58	3.5	17.08	3.5

All times BST. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Heathrow airport, 25C (77F); **lowest day max:** Spadeadam, Cumbria, 11C (52F); **highest rainfall**, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, 2.13in; **highest sunshine:** Clacton, 6.8hr.

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THE TIMES 2

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SPORT
Woods sets off in pursuit of US Open title
PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft
THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Robinson calls for shake-up of ITV network

By Alasdair Murray

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of Granada, yesterday claimed that ITV would ultimately be controlled by just one media player.

Mr Robinson described the current structure, which limits ownership to a maximum of 15 per cent of the total television audience, as "ludicrous and costly", adding that reform would be needed to allow ITV to compete effectively with Channel 4, Channel 5 and BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

ITV is already in the grip of a new round of consolidation, with Granada in the process of negotiating a £700 million agreed bid for Yorkshire Tyne-Tees. Scottish Media, which is paying £105 million to acquire neighbouring ITV region Grampian, said on Tuesday that it wants to loosen its ties with the ITV network.

Granada yesterday unveiled a 33 per cent increase in half-year profits, excluding tax and exceptional items, to £243 million. The company said it was reaping the benefits of its £3.9 billion takeover of Forte in Janaury last year.

However, the shares slid 17½p to 885p because of profit-taking and disappointment about the 10 per cent rise in the interim dividend, payable on September 29, to 4.66p.

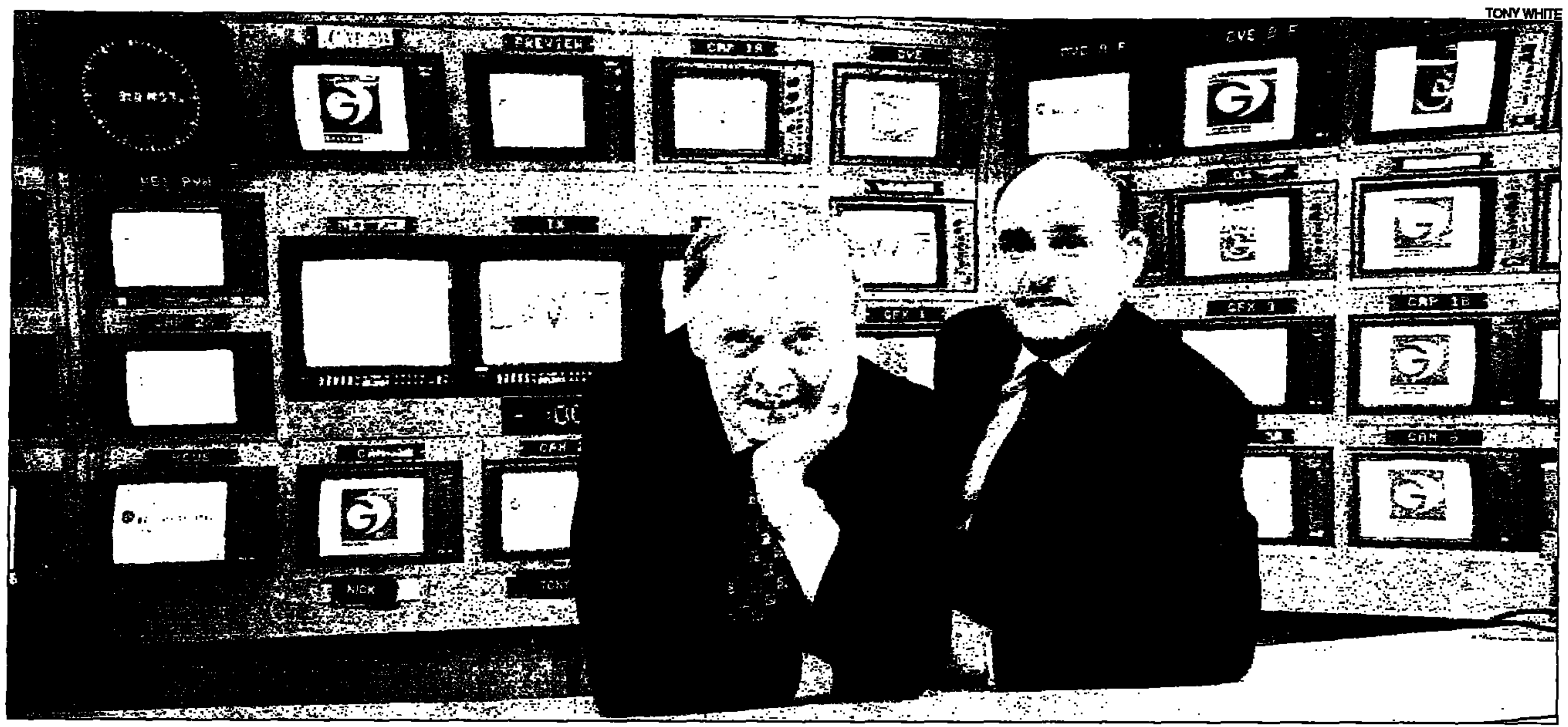
Granada recorded an exceptional profit of £23 million as the gains from its £1.3 billion asset sell-off programme outweighed a £166 million write down on the value of its Computer Services Division. The company was also forced to take an £11 million charge to cover the closure of 100 rental stores.

Mr Robinson said talks had commenced with the Savoy Hotel Group over the sale of Granada's 68 per cent stake, but that the company is in no rush because the value of the stake is increasing. He added that there would be further Exclusive disposals in the next few months, but that the bulk of the Forte sales had been completed.

Profits in the media division rose 13 per cent to £89 million, boosted by a 7 per cent rise in ITV net advertising revenue. Granada said it did not want to demerge its media interests at this point but this could be considered in the future.

Commentary, page 29

TONY WHITE



TV times a changing: Gerry Robinson, chairman, left, and Charles Allen, chief executive, are in the process of negotiating a £700 million agreed bid for Yorkshire Tyne-Tees

Nationwide worth '£2,000 a member'

By Caroline Merrell

NATIONWIDE'S members would benefit from a windfall of nearly £2,000 on conversion or takeover, according to the building society's own calculation about its potential value.

The figure, given by Nationwide yesterday, will add to pressure from members to convert, despite opposition from the board of the UK's biggest building society.

Nationwide, which is advised by Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, claims that a bidder would have to pay at least £7 billion if it were to make a successful takeover.

Brian Davis, Nationwide chief executive, said that, if an approach was made, it was the board's duty to consider it. However, he added: "Our size would make us quite difficult to swallow."

Five members are standing for election to the Nationwide board, including Michael Hardern, a butler, who runs an organisation called Members for Conversion. If elected, the five will press the board of 12 to follow the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock down the conversion route.

Mr Davis has admitted that if the five get a substantial vote then the society would have to reconsider its position. He said: "We are taking this threat very seriously." The society denied claims that it had spent £1 million trying to defeat the five.

Potential bidders could include Abbey National, NatWest Group, AMP and the the newly converted Halifax. The society's board members include Alison Carnwarth, who is also a director of DLJ Phoenix, a mergers and acquisitions specialist.

Last year, Nationwide underlined its commitment to mutuality by offering members a £200 million package of benefits in the form of higher savings rates and lower mortgage rates. This philosophy was reflected in the society's annual results announced yesterday. Profits fell 40 per cent to £314 million (£520 million).

The society's strategy of offering a mortgage rate that is less than the variable rates offered by converting societies and the banks helped to push Nationwide's share of the new mortgage market to 11.1 per cent, compared with 1.2 per cent the previous year. Gross advances were £6.5 billion, against £4.3 billion in 1995-96. Provisions for bad debt more than halved to £49.5 million (£125 million); this was put down to the general improvement in the housing market.

Assets grew 7.8 per cent to £2.4 billion (£2.2 billion), while retail savings totalled £28 billion (£27 billion).

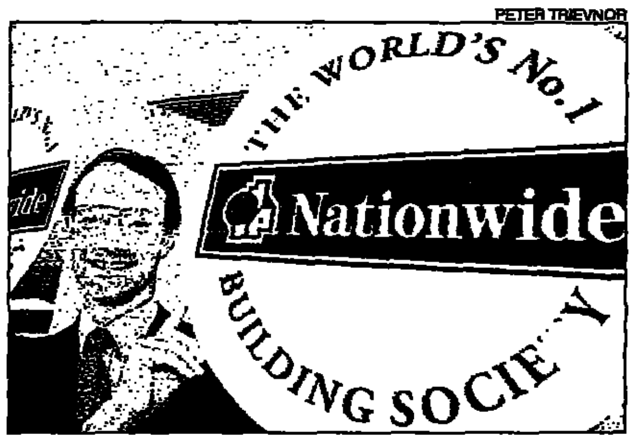
Nationwide said much of the new money came from converting societies with customers now free to move their savings. The society took £700 million in new savings last month, estimating that about £50 million of this came from Alliance & Leicester alone.

The society said thousands of new accounts were being opened each day by customers fleeing the converting societies, where savings rates have fallen. Nationwide offers 6.4 per cent interest on its postal account for balances of £500. Halifax's highest rate at this level is 3 per cent.

Voting forms for the society's three million members go out today. The AGM, where the result of the vote will be known, is planned for July 24.

Commentary, page 29

PETER TRIEVNOR



Brian Davis says the board has a duty to consider approaches

Liquidator's BCCI fees reach $219m

By Jon Ashworth

FEES arising from the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have topped $300 million, enraging creditors and prompting calls for a government inquiry.

Deloitte & Touche, the BCCI liquidator in the UK, was paid $15.1 million last year, taking total fees to the firm to $219 million.

A further $94.5 million has been spent on legal fees, which are expected to rise sharply because of impending legal action. The Bank of England is among those to face legal action over the BCCI collapse.

Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East, is calling for a select committee inquiry into fees paid to Deloitte & Touche. He wants the firm to respond to creditors' concerns at an open meeting and seeks assurances on future payments to creditors, saying at least $635 million is now available for distribution.

BCCI creditors received a first dividend of 24.5 per cent last December and have been told to expect a further payout of at least 10 per cent.

Mr Vaz said: "I am very concerned at the level of these fees, especially as there is no clear indication on the timing of a second dividend." He led a delegation of creditors to see Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, on Tuesday, saying that fees arising from litigation were set to double in the next five years.

The figures were calculated in January and are disclosed in a report to the Department of Trade and Industry. BCCI was shut down by the Bank of England in July 1991, leaving debts of more than $10 billion.

Abbas Gokal, whose Gulf Group stripped $1.2 billion from BCCI, was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment last month at the Central Criminal Court. Civil action against Gokal and his associates is continuing.

Deloitte & Touche yesterday defended its record, saying that fees had tailed off sharply in recent years. It conceded, however, that legal fees were set to rise as the emphasis shifted to the courts.

Christopher Morris, of Deloitte & Touche, the joint liquidator of BCCI, said: "We have seen the cost-to-recovery ratio continue to fall in 1996. We will continue in our efforts to maximise cost-efficient recoveries in order that payment to creditors can be made as quickly as possible."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4724.8	(-14.8)
Yield	3.48%	
FTSE All share	2237.85	(-4.31)
Nikkei	20289.93	(-242.62)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7556.01	(+16.74)*
S&P Composite	866.98	(+1.71)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5⅝%)
Long Bond	97 13/32*	(97¼)
Yield	6.83%*	(6.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⅝%	(6⅝%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	119 19/32	(113½)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6367*	(1.6427)
London:		
$	1.6371	(1.6393)
DM	2.8071	(2.8141)
FFr	9.4925	(9.5202)
SFr	2.3516	(2.3656)
Yen	182.28	(184.71)
£ Index	99.3	(99.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7170*	(1.7185)
FFr	5.8095*	(5.8107)
SFr	1.4370*	(1.4412)
Yen	111.40*	(112.19)
$ Index	101.6	(102.1)

Tokyo close Yen 110.88

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	$18.10	($17.85)

GOLD

London close	$344.15	($343.65)

* denotes midday trading price

Pacificorp may table Energy offer soon

By Oliver August

PACIFICORP, the US utility, will wait for a signal from today's meeting between the electricity companies and John Battle, the Energy Minister, before proceeding with its £3.6 billion bid for The Energy Group. An offer could be tabled as early as tomorrow.

Mr Battle is consulting the regional electricity companies on developing competition in the sector and could give the first clues on the windfall tax. This issue threatens to overshadow the bid and has kept Pacificorp's offer price below some analysts' expectations.

Pacificorp is said to be aiming to pay a 20 per cent premium over Wednesday's closing share price for Energy, which owns Britain's biggest electricty distributor, valuing shares at 694p. Yesterday they were at 641½p.

The shares of other electricity companies were also boosted by the bid talks, revealed by Energy last night. Southern rose from 416p to 431p and Scottish Hydro from 400½p to 421p. They are seen as the most likely other bid targets. Analysts said Pacificorp might pay a special dividend as part of a takeover deal. The Energy Group cancelled yesterday's interim results announcement.

Mr Battle will have little reason to block a takeover on competition or regulatory grounds. But the way he responds will be seen as a guide to future takeover decisions by investors.

Hanson reprieve, page 28
Graham Searjeant, page 31

Barings executive cleared

By Robert Miller
Banking Correspondent

RON BAKER, the former senior Barings executive, has won his appeal over a disciplinary charge brought against him by a City watchdog over his role in supervising Nick Leeson, the rogue trader.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures traders, confirmed yesterday that Mr Baker, who last year was cleared on four out of the five charges levied against him by the watchdog, had won his appeal against the remaining guilty verdict for an act of misconduct.

Mr Baker, who represented himself at the appeal hearing, said: "It has been a long hard struggle to prove my innocence. The SFA tribunal is there as a safety net and I have been totally vindicated."

Nick Durlacher, chairman of the SFA, said: "By winning his appeal, Mr Baker has successfully rebutted all the charges brought against him by the SFA following the failure of Barings."

The tribunal decision is the conclusion of the SFA's disciplinary proceedings against nine former Barings directors, many of whom now face further action by the Department of Trade and Industry to disqualify them from acting as company directors. Mr Baker was the only Barings executive to defend himself successfully against the SFA charges.

Unemployed total drops to 1,636,000

UNEMPLOYMENT is at a seven-year low, with figures out yesterday showing the official jobless total dropped to 1,636,000, or 5.8 per cent of the workforce.

However, the news came as GEC-Marconi Communications announced 535 job losses because of falling orders. The phased job losses will be at the Chelmsford site in Essex.

UK unemployment has fallen by 530,000 in a year and is 1.35 million lower than its near three million peak in December 1992. Unadjusted unemployment fell by 67,465 to 1,620,496 in May.

Decrease slows, page 28

Grant gets extra £1.8m

By Adam Jones

SIR Alistair Grant, who recently retired as chairman of Safeway, has been given 510,480 shares, worth £1.84 million in the current market, under a long-term incentive plan for executive directors.

Under the supermarket chain's ABC loyalty scheme, a customer would need to spend £184 million to be rewarded with a similar sum.

Sir Alistair, who last year received pay and benefits totalling £669,000, plus pension contributions of £57,000, received 382,860 shares under the incentive scheme on May 23. The remainder are due next May.

Other Safeway executive directors are also receiving shares in two tranches. Colin Smith, chief executive, will get 389,950 in all. David Webster, who took over as chairman at the end of March, will receive 319,050.

Mr Smith and Mr Webster said they will retain shares so far received for at least three years. Three other directors were rewarded.

The long-term incentive payments relate to the period April 1994 to March 1997. Performance was measured against rival companies. In its annual report, Safeway said its total shareholder return rose, on average, 17.77 per cent a year. The previous three-year long-term incentive cycle had paid directors nothing when it ended in April 1995. Safeway has now moved to a yearly scheme that also considers earnings per share.

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Hanson and Imperial granted FTSE reprieve

By Jason Nissé

HANSON GROUP and Imperial Tobacco yesterday survived the cut that would have excluded them from the FTSE 100 index, despite being the 101st and 103rd-largest quoted companies in the UK respectively.

The decision of the Stock Exchange's FTSE UK Indices Committee was taken because the market value of the two groups had not fallen enough for the committee to be convinced they would not be pushing to be included at the next review in September. It was good news for Lord Hanson, who faced the indignity of seeing his name disappear from the FTSE 100 for the first time since the group was created. Had Imperial and Hanson, largely a building materials company these days, been dropped from the FTSE 100, many of the index funds run by institutional investors would in all likeliness have sold their stakes, so cutting their value further.

As it stands, the Hanson empire has lost nearly £2.8 billion in value since January 30 last year, when Lord Hanson announced his intention to break the company into four parts. At that time Lord Hanson said the break-up would enhance the value of the empire, which was then valued at nearly £11 billion.

The rump of Hanson is currently valued at £2.02 billion; Imperial at £2.05 billion; Millennium, the chemicals business listed in the US, at £910 million: and yesterday's leap in the price of The Energy Group, following PacifiCorp's bid approach, puts its market value at £3.33 billion. This makes the old group worth £8.21 billion now it is in four parts. For every old Hanson share, priced at 210p on January 30 last year, the current value is a mere 158p. The propects for investors seeing this gap narrowed substantially do not look good, even if PacifiCorp's £3.6 billion bid for Energy goes through.

Hanson itself is not too badly placed. It can take advantage of the resurgence in the UK building industry because of its ownership of London Brick. However, many building materials anaylsts feel that most of this hope is already reflected in the share price.

Imperial has had a rocky run since it floated. Though it does not have a substantial US business, the £30 billion deal being brokered by the Clinton administration to settle all outstanding tobacco litigation in America has not helped its cause. Millennium may be a good business. But it was floated with £1.4 billion worth of debts, which will continue to hold it back for some time. Even takeover bids for the remaining three parts — which was the subtext of the merger — are unlikely to bring the sum of the parts back to the value of the whole before the process started.

Jobless fall puts total at lowest for seven years

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

UNEMPLOYMENT is now falling at up to 35,000 a month, the Government said yesterday when it announced the latest figures showing a drop in the number of people without work of only half that total.

Seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment dropped in May by 18,400 to 1,636,000, a much lower decrease than City forecasters had been predicting.

Whitehall officials said that the new level marked the first time claimant unemployment had been unaffected by changes to the benefit regime since the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance last autumn.

The latest fall — which included an increase in unemployment of 1,100 for women, offset by a 19,500 decline among men — took the total to its lowest level for seven years.

At 5.8 per cent of the workforce, claimant unemployment has now fallen 530,000 over the past year and is 1.35 million lower than its near three million peak in December 1992.

The figures prompted a clash in Whitehall. Statisticians at the Office for National Statistics, which publishes the jobless data, said that they still could make no estimate of the trend in monthly unemployment.

While they accepted that it was now higher than the 15,000 to 20,000 fall it was estimating when the jobseeker's allowance started, they could put no figure on it now and would not be able to do so until later in the year.

But the Department for Education and Employment said that the unemployment figures showed a healthy improvement.

While the trend was "confused in some respects", it said that taking all the indicators together, the underlying fall was currently 30,000 to 35,000 per month.

Unadjusted unemployment fell 67,465 to 1,620,496, while employment rose by 86,000 in the first quarter of this year to 26.2 million, according to the workforce in employment series. Full-time employment rose, but part-time work fell.

The Prince's Trust, the Prince of Wales's organisation that seeks to help young people, will say today that the Government's jobs programme is threatened by lack of basic skills.

Pointing up severe skill problems among young people, the trust and the independent Employment Policy Institute will say in a report that half a million youngsters are now "suffering serious distress" in the current job market.

Expro has Mexican ambition

By Carl Mortished

EXPRO International, the oilfield services company, is continuing to expand worldwide with a push into the Gulf of Mexico, where it is selling its subsea well technology.

Expro's pre-tax profit rose by 24 per cent, to £17.8 million, in the year to March after a 28 per cent rise in turnover, to a record £105 million. The dividend for the year rises by 14 per cent, to 8p, after a 20 per cent rise in earnings per share to 21.2p. The final dividend is 5.35p.

Expro sells drilling technology to oil companies, specialising in sub-sea well completion and maintenance, a technology in high demand from companies engaged in deepwater exploration. Revenues grew 14 per cent in the UK, which still accounts for more than a third of the business. Expro's continental European business enjoyed a boost in The Netherlands from increased drilling activity.

Expro is making a push in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico and has secured a contract with BP to work in water depths of 8,500ft.

Turnover in Africa and the former Soviet Union was up by 63 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

JAMES FRASER

Alan Wiseman, chairman of Robert Wiseman Dairies, which aims to expand south

Wiseman up to £11.9m

By Adam Jones

ROBERT WISEMAN Dairies, Scotland's biggest milk supplier, has marked its fiftieth year with record earnings.

The company's pre-tax profits rose to £11.9 million in the year to March 29, up from £8.6 million. Turnover increased by more than 30 per cent, to £192.9 million.

Wiseman, based in East Kilbride, has about 75 to 80 per cent of the fresh milk market in Scotland after its purchase of Scottish Pride's milk interests earlier this year. Their reorganisation involved a £360,000 charge and an undertaking to the Office of Fair Trading that prices charged to Scottish customers would be regularly reported to the watchdog.

Margins declined in the second half of the year as a result of a decline in the selling prices of bulk cream and liquid milk. Wiseman said that a forecast reduction in raw milk prices from farmers has helped to offset this now.

The company has purchased an additional 7.4 acres at its Manchester dairy and intends to expand its presence south of the border. Capital expenditure is planned at more than £30 million this year.

A final dividend of 2.35p, up from 2.1p, is due to be paid on September 25, making a total of 3.5p (3.1p) for the year.

Formula One looks to autumn flotation

By Jason Nissé

THE £1.5 billion flotation of Formula One Holdings, which controls the top flight of motor racing, is set to be postponed until the autumn when the company, led by Bernie Ecclestone, meets Salomon Brothers, its financial adviser, on Friday.

Salomon had hoped to float the company in time for the British Grand Prix on July 13 and announced this timetable this week. However, it was unable to conclude a deal with the ten main racing teams over the distribution of television income coming into the sport, largely because of a stand off with the Williams, Tyrell and McLaren teams.

Advisers to Formula One believe that they have found a solution to the impasse and expect that Salomon will announce a new timetable on Friday, with it being "80 per cent" certain that the schedule will be put off until at least September.

In the deal with the teams — known as the Concorde agreement — 47 per cent of the annual TV revenues will go to the teams for each of the next five years. The revenues were £200 million last year.

Out of the rest, Formula One pays a levy with the Fédération Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA), the governing body, and its expenses, leaving profits that reached £85 million last year.

The teams will now share a 10 per cent stake in Formula One when it floats, the FIA another 10 per cent and 30 per cent will be held by Mr Ecclestone and his wife. The remaining 50 per cent will be offered for sale in the flotation.

The Concorde agreement has yet to be signed by all the teams, as many of them are travelling to Canada for the next round of the Grand Prix.

Analysts are still concerned about the future of the TV revenues, which are expected to grow with pay-per-view TV. However tests of pay-per-view in Germany have been disappointing and a Frankfurt court ruling on the televising of European truck racing may also hit Formula One.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

KPMG confident as fee income rises 13%

KPMG, the only major accountancy firm to be externally audited, saw gross fee income rise 13 per cent to £374.8 million (£332.7 million) in the six months to March 31. Income from management consultancy grew 30 per cent to £73 million, while corporate finance and transaction services grew 20 per cent, buoyed by merger and acquisitions activity. Tax advisory work was up 14 per cent, but the mainstream audit and accounting services rose just 4 per cent.

Colin Sharman, senior partner, said: "Growth in all sectors has been good and our management consultancy has strongly returned to growth after a disappointing performance in the first part of last year. The arrival of a new government should act as a further stimulus for consultancy work, as companies and government departments work out new strategies for the next century." KPMG recently won the worldwide audits of LucasVarity and Crédit Suisse, and has been confirmed as auditor of the merged Granada Forte.

Windfall appeal

BRISTOL WATER HOLDINGS is appealing to the Government to be spared the windfall tax on the grounds that it has never benefited from government aid afforded to its peers. The company, which has always been in the private sector, returned pre-tax profits of £13.9 million (£12.1 million) on sales of £67.3 million for the year to March 31. This was a profit margin of 20 per cent, against the industry average of 30 per cent. Earnings were 142p (124p) a share and a final dividend of 36.35p is due October 1, making a total of 52p (45.5p).

Leigh back in black

LEIGH INTERESTS, the waste disposal company, has returned to the black after its £15 million restructuring plan left the slimmed-down group with a profit of £7.12 million against a £9.56 million loss last time. On an underlying basis, profits were 10.4 per cent ahead after sharp progress in the clinical and chemical divisions. The company reduced its debt by £4.4 million to £54 million, taking gearing down to 76 per cent. Earnings were 7.2p a share (15p loss) and a final dividend of 2.685p, due on October 10, holds the total at 3.915p.

Woolwich raises rate

THE Woolwich Building Society, which will become a bank next month when it floats on the stock market, has raised its interest rate by 0.35 points to 7.95 per cent. The rise will take immediate effect for new borrowers, but existing borrowers will not be asked to pay the higher rate until June 19. The Woolwich is following the example of its rivals, Halifax and Abbey National, who both increased their interest rates last Friday in the wake of the 0.25 point rise in base rates to 6.5 per cent.

NU dealing details

NORWICH UNION has announced that the share dealing services to enable members to buy and sell shares in the company will be available from Monday, June 16, the day of flotation. Four firms of brokers will be involved: NatWest Bank, Barclays Stockbrokers, Cazenove and Davy Stockbrokers. All will deal on an execution-only basis. Norwich Union members whose shares are held in the Norwich Union Share Account will be able to deal only through these providers.

Denmans advances

DENMANS ELECTRICAL, which sells electrical fittings to smaller trade buyers, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.96 million (£1.45 million) at the halfway stage after a turnround at its decorative lighting division. It said patchy demand for wholesale and general lighting would mean redundancies. Tibelec, bought two months ago, is not expected to make a significant contribution before winter. Earnings were 7.39p (5.38p), and an interim dividend of 0.7p (0.65p) is due on August 7.

Porter Chadburn rises

PORTER CHADBURN, the international labels producer, returned an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £4.6 million in the year to March 28. The company acquired Double S Systems and Stampiton, which make sticky labels, as part of its move to change from a conglomerate into a focused labels business. Earnings were 3.15p (3.4p) a share. The final dividend of 0.5p per share, due on August 28 and the first for three years, makes a total of 0.75p (nil).

ASB to curb 'misleading' smoothing of accounts

By Robert Bruce

PROPOSED financial reporting rules, to further restrict companies from using the "smoothing" of profits and losses when times get tough, are published today.

The Accounting Standards Board's (ASB) financial reporting exposure draft 14 restricts the use of provisions by which companies tuck profits away during good times, only to release them unused to boost their profit and loss accounts at a later date. Companies would now have to prove they had an obligation to the expenditure they are providing for, rather than simply an intention. Sir David Tweedie, ASB chairman, said: "All too often the provision is wildly excessive and conveniently finds its way back to the profit and loss account in a later period. This misleading practice needs to be stopped."

The ASB has also issued financial reporting exposure draft 15 on impairment of fixed assets and goodwill, which attempts to bring order to the value of assets. Companies argue, for example, that as they enter recession the value of their property is affected temporarily. Shareholders only discover the true state of their assets later. The proposals insist on an annual review.

Isobel Sharp, technical partner at Arthur Andersen said: "What the ASB has taken away with one hand it has given back with the other — it has taken away manoeuvres on provisions, but allowed manoeuvres on depreciation."

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Accountancy, page 32

Japanese prosecutors raid retailer's headquarters

From A Correspondent in Tokyo

TOKYO prosecutors yesterday raided the headquarters of Jusco Co, a major Japanese retailing chain, only 24 hours after its president was arrested for alleged previous links to a racketeer payoff scandal involving Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank (DKB), one of the country's leading commercial banks.

There was no suggestion that Jusco was involved in the scandal, but the string of actions by prosecutors tarnished the image of the nation's third biggest supermarket operator in terms of sales and hit its shares on the Tokyo stock exchange.

Jusco has a 15 per cent interest in Laura Ashley, the UK fashion and fabrics retailer, with whom it operates a joint venture in Japan. Jusco also has alliances with two American companies, Talbots Inc and Sports Authority Inc.

A spokesman for Jusco said that three officials from the prosecutors' office had entered the company's headquarters in Makuhari, near Tokyo, in the morning. On Tuesday, four former DKB executives, including Kenji Tanaka, now president of Jusco, were arrested and half of the 40 board members at the bankresigned.

Prosecutors said that they arrested the former DKB executives, who were responsible for screening the bank's loans for irregularities, on suspicion of making illicit loans to a *sokaiya* racketeer. *Sokaiya* extort money by threatening to disrupt shareholders' meetings.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.25	2.09
Austria Sch	20.66	19.12
Belgium Fr	60.66	56.22
Canada $	2.383	2.207
Cyprus Cyp£	0.877	0.810
Denmark Kr	11.22	10.40
Finland Mkk	8.94	8.24
France Fr	9.91	9.19
Germany Dm	2.96	2.73
Greece Dr	471	433
Hong Kong $	13.39	12.26
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.05
Israel Shk	5.89	5.24
Italy Lira	2929	2707
Japan Yen	196.00	179.60
Malta	0.660	0.604
Netherlds Gld	3.335	3.068
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	12.28	11.40
Portugal Esc	294.00	273.50
S Africa Rd	8.04	7.12
Spain Pta	248.00	229.50
Sweden Kr	13.45	12.42
Switzerland Fr	2.50	[illegible]
Turkey Lira	244518	[illegible]
USA $	1.733	[illegible]

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A mutual admiration society

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Mutuality may be a centuries-old tradition but until the middle of this decade, it was an institution that few saw as worth defending. Then came the carpetbaggers and, in their wake, those prepared to fight for the principles on which building societies were founded.

It was November 1994 when the Halifax, founded in 1853, announced its plans to become a bank, with customers and profits rather than members and old ideals. The defection of the mightiest mutual suddenly made mutuality worth protecting. There was an outbreak of enthusiasm for the system under which an institution is owned by its savers and borrowers, the members. Chief executives of building societies who had never previously uttered the word, waxed lyrical about the shared delights of mutuality.

The Nationwide, founded in 1848, was one of the societies to launch a mutuality reward scheme, combining reduced mortgage rates and enhanced savers' rates. These packages are designed to rival the windfalls being distributed by the Halifax and other converting societies. But it does not take a consulting room of psycologists to discover that cash in hand, or an easily redeemable share certificate, has more consumer appeal than sensible long-term benefits. The improved savers' rates are appreciated by those who have already received their Halifax and Alliance & Leicester payouts, but those who failed to cash in on those windfalls tend to feel that they too are due a payout.

Some 10,000 savers are opening accounts each day at the Nationwide and the betting is that many are not wooed so much by the generous rates as by the prospect of Nationwide joining the demutualisers.

And today's revelation that they might expect around £2,000 apiece if Nationwide sacrificed its mutual status is likely to louden the clamour from the unabashed bounty hunters.

Naturally, once the windfall has been shaken out of the converting societies, custom tends to drift away. At present the mass desertion of customers seems to be of little concern to the converting societies. They simply allow their margins to widen, charging more to borrowers and paying less to savers. The aim is to protect shareholders: the irony is that many of them will be footing the bill.

At some stage, some well intentioned individuals will no doubt spot the need for a small, friendly, organisation, offering loans to local people with money raised from local people. The idea could turn into a movement and spread across the country. It could attract the savings of those who fear that there is not room for all these banks to succeed.

And here's to you Mr Robinson

Gerry Robinson has enjoyed being an hotelier. Now he fancies being a real media mogul. All he lacks is the fat cigar if he is to stand alongside the greats of the entertainment industry.

Television channels — he has them: TV programmes — he makes them: Golden Roses — he wins them; party political broadcasts — he stars in them.

The Forte takeover was last year's deal and already the figures show it to have been a beauty. Now, media is where Mr Robinson is concentrating his attentions and focusing that of his highly effective chief executive, Charles Allen.

Yesterday the message from the company oozed with confidence, and half-year profits up by a third provided ample justification. The Granada share price has under-performed the market by 7.5 per cent over the last year as investors have been sceptical about the company's ability to squeeze the Forte assets.

But the hotel sales have come through and, because of his refusal to be stampeded into speedy disposals, the prices have been better than even the optimistic Mr Robinson had anticipated. What is perhaps even more surprising is the apparent willingness of the travelling public to pay the increased prices that the Little Chef has been cheekily demanding.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Robinson's blarney can extricate Granada from its position at the Savoy, but in the meantime, he can at least enjoy the increased profits that are being generated there.

Now the thing to concentrate on is entertainment. Cracker, the overweight pyschologist who helps out police with their inquiries, has now been turned into a politically acceptable series for the United States sensibilities.

Granada is the first UK production company to have been commissioned to make a series for US television. Mr Robinson is thrilled.

Then there is pay TV moving along, the takeover of Yorkshire Television, and the bid for the UK digital terrestrial franchise, as a one third shareholder in British Digital Broadcasting. This is moguldom for sure.

What was it that Basil Fawlty, aka John Cleese, said about him being an upstart caterer?

Big bath goes out with the bathwater

Sir David Tweedie is back on form in the Accounting Standards Board's latest reform proposals. They tackle some of the last of the glaring abuses that spawned his appointment and which engage his moral zeal most enthusiastically.

Having banned most of the worst manipulations used to make takeovers painless, the board is tackling dodgy practices used to soften the impact of recessions or poor trading. Out will go "big bath" provisions that have been used by some of the top corporate names to dress up the costs of trimming businesses or routine efficiency gains as a global restructuring, provided for maybe years in advance and therefore flattering profits faster than they really benefit. Out too go some of the tricks of the property and resources industries, which allowed companies to claim that "temporary" cuts in the value of assets need not be counted.

The result, as with so many of Sir David's reforms, is to show what is really happening to a business in that accounting year. Such realism inevitably makes profits more erratic at a time when global investors who paint by numbers want flesh-and-blood companies to be as lifeless as a government bond.

Sir David can help investors and analysts to get more meaningful information. But if users of accounts do not want to know the unvarnished truth, reformers are wasting their time.

Chipping away

SIR Chips Keswick was in bullish mood, brushing off Hambros' difficulties like crumbs from the tea table. But with Regent Pacific unlikely to maintain its unusually diplomatic silence for much longer, the CWS affair hanging over it and up to half of its profits coming from estate agency and the sale of housing-related financial services, Hambros has lost a little of the merchant banking cachet Sir Chips likes to embody.

British Land kept on right track by Broadgate values

By Carl Mortished

A BOOST to values at the Broadgate office complex in the City and office developments in Dublin helped to keep British Land's portfolio on the upward track.

The Liverpool Street site, acquired for £1 billion two years ago, accounted for a large portion of the uplift in British Land's portfolio, which lagged behind the 8 per cent growth rate reported by Land Securities last month.

British Land's properties gained 5.9 per cent in value in the year to March, with the City office portfolio, the largest part of the group, scoring a 6.9 per cent gain. John Weston Smith, finance director, said Broadgate was the largest component of the City portfolio and its rate of growth reflected the 6.9 per cent average. Thanks to its high gearing, the property group's net asset value per share leapt from 426p to 487p, a 14 per cent gain from the property assets which, including joint ventures, are now valued at £5.1 billion.

Pre-tax profits were ahead of expectations, gaining 47 per cent to £91 million. The profits advance included a £7.1 million gain from property trading while net rents rose 28 per cent to £260 million. The company is raising the dividend for the year to 9p, up from 8.55p last year.

Mr Weston Smith said that sales of properties from the GUS portfolio were achieving valuations at a surplus to acquisition cost. British Land entered into a £960 million joint venture in February with the retailer to extract value from a portfolio of 982, mainly retail, properties.

British Land's average interest bill is set to fall from 8.46 per cent at the financial year end to 7.96 per cent after the receipt of proceeds from its Eurobond issue next week. Balance sheet gearing is expected to fall from a current level of 89 per cent to 78 per cent after the expected conversion of the 6 per cent irredeemable bonds into preference shares.

The company's retail portfolio gained 6 per cent, with a 14.7 per cent uplift in retail warehouses. Supermarkets performed less well, gaining only 3.4 per cnet during the year but the company expects to achieve some £29 million of extra rent from guaranteed uplifts over the next four years. Overall, the net yield on British Land's portfolio remained at 7.1 per cent while the yield on current rental values fell to 8 per cent from 8.5 per cent last year.

The company has received planning consent for the redevelopment of the Great Eastern Hotel at Liverpool Street in a joint venture with Arcadian International and Conran Holdings, the design and restaurant group.

Tempus, page 30

Mansfield Brewery plans expansion

By Alasdair Murray

MANSFIELD BREWERY yesterday said that it would raise capital expenditure by a third to £30 million this year.

The company, which owns a total of 209 managed pubs in its 520-strong estate, said that it hoped to open 20 new branded outlets.

A strong performance from the retail pubs divisions helped Mansfield to increase pre-tax profits 13 per cent to £20.8 million in the year ended March 29.

Profits in the retail division increased by 15 per cent because of improved cost controls and increased amusement game income. Beer volumes rose 6.5 per cent, with the successful launch of Mansfield Smooth Bitter and improved contract brewing sales. On-trade volumes rose 1.7 per cent, while the regional market saw a decline of 2.5 per cent.

Overall turnover increased 7 per cent to £158 million. After a management review, Richard Chadburn will step down as operations and personnel director but will continue as a non-executive director.

Sir David White, chairman, said that current trading is in line with expectations. The total dividend was increased by 18.6 per cent to 7p. A final dividend of 4.9p is due to be paid on August 13. The shares were unchanged at 352½p.

Ralph Bernard, left, and Patrick Taylor, deputy chief executive and finance director, plan to go digital next year

Hambros counts Co-op cost

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

SUPPORTING Andrew Regan's failed bid for the Cooperative Wholesale Society (CWS) may have cost Hambros Bank up to £5 million.

Hambros, which yesterday unveiled a £44.1 million rise in pre-tax profits, to £64.7 million, in the year to March 31, said £9.2 million had been used to cover exceptional items. These included rationalisation costs of about £4.5 million and "a provision for the costs of the CWS matter", said Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive.

On the CWS affair, Sir Chips said that Norton Rose, the City law firm, was still conducting an inquiry, which would be passed to the Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority, watchdog for brokers and futures dealers. He added: "We will take, as soon as possible, any action that needs to be taken to ensure that we preserve, and then enhance, the good name which is so important to us."

It is understood that Mr Regan has not been asked to give evidence to the Norton Rose inquiry, and may consider, in any future court action, subpoenaing all senior Hambros management involved in the failed bid, including Sir Chips.

The company's star performer was Hambro Countrywide, the estate agent in which the bank has a 52 per cent stake; it contributed profit of £30.8 million, against a £3.9 million loss the previous year.

Operating profits from banking fell to £20.4 million, from £36.7 million, although bad-debt provisions were cut to £10.2 million (£36.2 million).

Sir Chips said that Hambros, which left its dividend for the year, payable on August 26, unchanged at 7.5p, was committed to staying an independent merchant bank.

Commenting on Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong fund manager that owns nearly 4 per cent of Hambros and has in the past criticised its management, Sir Chips said: "We treat all our shareholders, including Regent, in the same way and everyone is wholely entitled to their opinion."

Commentary, this page

Classic fm helps GWR to play a happier note

By Eric Reguly

A TURNROUND at Classic fm and the sale of loss-making overseas businesses helped to double the earnings of GWR, the commercial radio group that floated in 1994.

Pro-forma earnings in the year ended March 31 were £11.9 million (£5.5 million) on turnover of £63.8 million, up 63 per cent. The figures include a profit of £4.5 million on disposals and the £1 million cost of the company's failed bids for two foreign radio operations. Pro-forma earnings per share were 8.9p, compared with 6.3p.

GWR reported pro-forma figures because it has changed its financial year end from September to March. Pre-tax profits in the 18 months to March were £14.3 million.

The group bought full control of Classic fm in a deal worth £71.5 million last year. The station moved into profit in the autumn and earnings are expected to improve as national advertising sales pick up momentum. The sale of the Swedish version of Classic fm and the merger of its Dutch radio station have stemmed substantial overseas losses. GWR will probably sell its Finnish business this year.

In Britain, GWR is juggling its portfolio in an effort to replace loss-making stations with profitable ones. Yesterday it announced the sale of 96.6 FM in St Albans to Essex Radio for £725,175.

Ralph Bernard, chief executive, said GWR plans to launch digital radio services next year. He said: "The jury is out as to whether digital radio will be a huge success or a non-event."

A final dividend of 1.25p is to be paid on August 4, making the pro-forma dividend 2.78p, up from 2.34p.

Tempus, page 30

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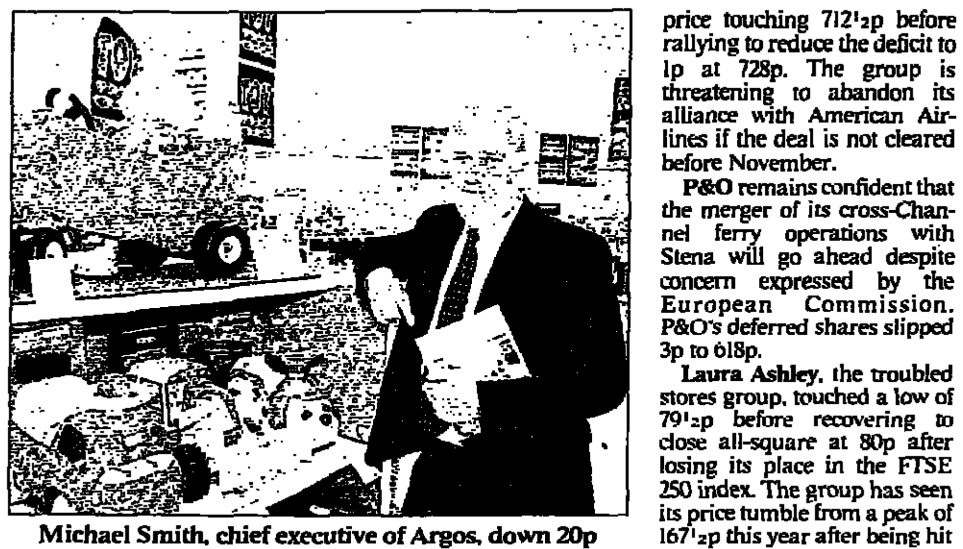
STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Banking newcomers lend weight to top 100 players



Michael Smith, chief executive of Argos, down 20p

HALIFAX and the **Alliance & Leicester**, newcomers to the market, have taken their places among the top 100 companies.

The Halifax, 5½p easier at 756½p yesterday, enters the FTSE 100 at number eight with a capitalisation of £18.5 billion, alongside **Barclays**, up 5p at £12.27, and **NatWest Bank**, down 18p at 786p. The Alliance & Leicester, 4p off at 619½p, enjoys a price tag of £6.3 billion.

Their promotion will serve to increase the weighting of the financial sector in the top 100 index, which at the end of May was 23.6 per cent. This figure will rise considerably again when both the Woolwich and Norwich Union take their places as constituents. All four companies are certain to attract the powerful index tracking funds.

The two companies dropping out of the index yesterday to make way for the banks were **Burton Group**, 4¼p off at 126p, and **Smith & Nephew**, ¾p better at 172p. But it proved a close run thing for two other poor performers, **Hanson**, 1½p firmer at 317p, and **Imperial Tobacco**, which was demerged from Hanson last year and closed 9p firmer at 397p.

Those companies that just missed out on promotion included **Williams**, ½p firmer at 315½p, **Compass Group**, 1p easier at 702p, **MEPC**, unchanged at 520½p, **Amvescap**, 6½p better at 343½p, and **Gallaher Group**, 5½p up at 282p.

Elsewhere, the profit-takers moved in on the back of Wall Street's record-breaking run overnight, with the FTSE 100 index reversing an early 20-point lead to close 14.8 down at 4,724.8. Turnover reached 872 million shares.

Energy Group stood out with a jump of 61½p to 641½p as the market continued to react to news of the bid talks with America's Pacificorp that emerged after the close of business on Tuesday. The terms are expected to be pitched at around the 700p level, valuing Energy at £3.6 billion.

The excitement in Energy generated fresh takeover speculation among other potential targets in the electricity sector. **Southern**, the last surviving independent regional electricity company, put on 15p at 431p. There were also gains for **Scottish Hydro**, 20½p to 421p, **PowerGen**, 14p to 695p, and **Northern Ireland Electricity**, 4½p to 409p.

Hopes of a merger between **GEC**, up 7p at 360½p, and **British Aerospace**, 15½p higher at £13.65½, have been revived. BAe has also been making some positive comments to analysts.

Half-year figures from **Granada** came in at the top end of expectations, with profits boosted by the Forte acquisition. Meanwhile, bid talks are continuing with **Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television** unchanged at £11.55. Granada is poised to offer £11.75 a share, valuing Yorkshire at £652 million. Granada ended 17½p lower at 885p after dismissing claims it wishes to demerge media interests.

There was sabre rattling at **British Airways**, with the price touching 712½p before rallying to reduce the deficit to 1p at 728p. The group is threatening to abandon its alliance with American Airlines if the deal is not cleared before November.

P&O remains confident that the merger of its cross-Channel ferry operations with Stena will go ahead despite concern expressed by the European Commission. P&O's deferred shares slipped 3p to 618p.

Laura Ashley, the troubled stores group, touched a low of 79½p before recovering to close all-square at 80p after losing its place in the FTSE 250 index. The group has seen its price tumble from a peak of 167½p this year after being hit by a profits warning and several top-level departures. Fund managers are said to be increasingly impatient with its recovery.

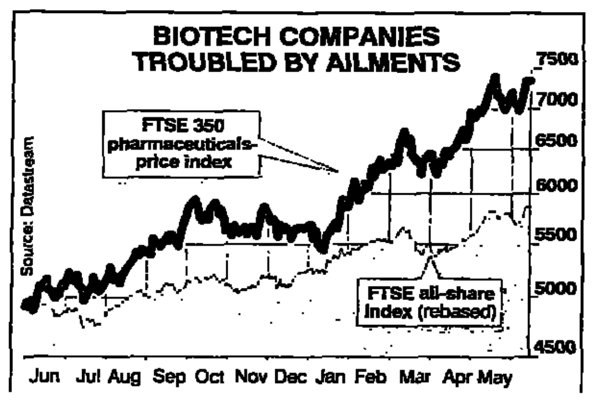
The bears were gaining the upper hand over **Argos** as the price flopped 20p to an *18-month low of 575½p*. This followed a downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which has cut its forecast for the current year by £4 million to £153 million. Hoare said the downgrade reflected a combination of tough trading conditions and aggressive pricing for the catalogue retailer, where Michael Smith is chief executive. There was also talk that rival HSBC James Capel is turning increasingly bearish of the stock.

Positive comments about current trading at **Chemring** helped to more than offset a dive into the red and a cut in the dividend, with the price rising 22½p to 100p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A late sell-off saw prices close below their best levels of the day. Earlier, the market had been encouraged by the less than expected drop in the unemployment numbers and firmer European bond markets.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt finished three ticks better at £113¹⁹⁄₃₂ as 63,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put three ticks at £108¹⁵⁄₃₂, while Treasury 8 per cent was £¹⁄₁₆ firmer at £103.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares edged higher, with modest gains among blue chips. The broader market was mixed and investors appeared to be waiting for economic data on the way. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 16.74 points ahead at 7,556.01.



THE former high-flyers of the biotech industry were looking under the weather as the sellers moved in. Leading the way down was Celltech, 11½p off at 273½p, accompanied by Chiroscience, down 11½p to 269p, Biocompatibles 18½p to £12.71½, British Biotech 9½p to 238p, Cambridge Antibody, 7½p to 522½p, Scotia Holdings 4p to 367p and Vanguard Medica 5p to 566½p.

Brokers say the setback can be put down to a delayed reaction to product disappointments.

One of them commented: "In recent weeks there has been a steady stream of companies reporting product failure in the final stages of testing. Many of them were significantly overvalued".

Disappointments have included Scotia's failure to obtain approval for Tarabetic, its diabetic treatment aimed at preventing nerve end damage, and the failure of Celltech's treatment for septic shock.

"Investors now want to own shares in the big drug companies. The biotech companies are simply being ignored," he added.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	7556.01	(+16.74)
S&P Composite	866.98	(+1.71)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	20289.93	(-242.62)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	14421.52	(-18.19)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	827.15	(-3.62)
Sydney:		
AO	2613.7	(-15.2)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	3677.43	(+12.42)
Singapore:		
Straits	1999.36	(-15.42)
Brussels:		
General	13475.47	(+107.67)
Paris:		
CAC-40	2693.86	(+29.68)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	1117.90	(-4.60)
London:		
FT 30	3026.6	(-12.8)
FTSE 100	4724.8	(-14.8)
FTSE 250	4506.9	(+9.6)
FTSE 350	2282.3	(-4.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2385.82	(+4.30)
FTSE All-Share	2237.85	(-4.31)
FTSE Non Financials	2251.45	(-2.29)
FTSE Fixed Interest	120.62	(-0.01)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.53	(+0.01)
Bargains	51460	
SEAQ Volume	872.6m	
US$	1.6368	(-0.0027)
German Mark	2.8066	(-0.0079)
Exchange Index	99.3	(-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
E:ECU	1.4336	
E:SDR	1.1716	
RPI	156.3 Apr (2.4%)	Jan 1987=100
RPIX	155.8 Apr (2.5%)	Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	619½	- 4
Aston Villa	800	...
Caradon B	99½	...
Downing Hlth (100)	100	...
Eagles	35	...
Gallaher	282	+ 5½
Halifax	756½	- 5½
Heart of Midlothian	113½	+ 1
Intl Biotech C Shares	99	...
Lady in Leisure	124½	...
Longbridge Intl	117½	...
Newmark Tech	12¼	...
Petra Diamonds	94½	+ 3
Petra Diamonds Wts	75	+ 2½
Royalblue Group	212½	...
SBS Group	117½	...
Topps Tiles	112½	+ 1
Versalite Group	3½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Pillar Props n/p (305)	17	- ½
Tadpole Tech n/p (10)	1	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Chemring	100p (+22½p)
Waddington	297½p (+25p)
Air London	216p (+13½p)
Travis Perkins	471½p (+26p)
Innovative Tech	328p (+17p)
Psion	489p (+19½p)
Meyer Int	431p (+16p)
Bowthorpe	327p (+11½p)
Danka Bs Sys	620p (+18½p)

FALLS:

Shield Diag	497½p (-35p)
Ascot Hldgs	256p (-12½p)
Chiroscience	269p (-11½p)
Atkins WS	276½p (-11p)
Caird Gp	680p (-25p)
Argos	575p (-20½p)
Bank Scotland	394½p (-10p)
Prudential	649p (-15½p)
Nat West	786p (-18p)
Legal & Gen	462p (-10p)
Guinness	566½p (-12p)
Granada	885p (-17½p)
Kingfisher	727p (-13p)
Broken Hill	365p (-14½p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Land of hope?

THE British Land machine looks unbeatable. How many large property companies are delivering double-digit increases in asset value at the same time as a dividend increase at twice the rate of inflation. This company has shown a clean pair of heels to the other heavyweight boxers in the sector, such as MEPC, Land Securities and Great Portland Estates which are struggling to generate income growth.

Financial engineering is British Land's forte, leading to the cute deals on supermarkets which gave it guaranteed rental growth at a time when other companies' profits were stagnating or falling. Still, the company's 47 per cent profits gain in the last year is not as clean as one might hope. The figures include a large slug of property trading profits to which have been deducted a share of administrative expenses. Last year's £2 million trading profit cost the company £1 million in expenses, while this year the directors chose to allocate £3 million of expenses against £10 million of trading profits.

Nevertheless, there are other reasons not to hold British Land shares although the inevitable comparison with the growth in the Land Securities portfolio is not entirely fair. British Land has chosen to focus on City offices, a risky bet given the easy planning regime adopted by the City Corporation and the threat of competition from Canary Wharf. British Land could have done better from the City last year had its core asset, Plantation House, not been undergoing redevelopment. The company also lacks good exposure to shopping centres. Still, good financial engineering has been rewarding for British Land investors and it would be wrong to quit now.

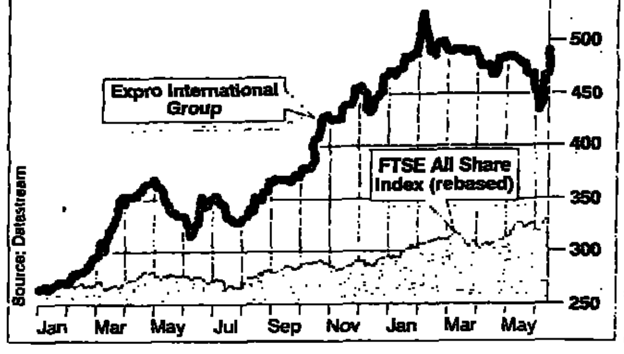
Expro Intl

OIL services has been a boom and bust industry, providing equipment and manning rigs while the oil price was hot, and lying low when the seven sisters felt the price per barrel was too low to justify drilling.

However, the outlook for this industry has changed and the players have become more aggressive. Groups such as Halliburton have *turned into investors, not* content just to provide service but taking stakes in wells, to the surprise and concern of some oil companies.

Expro is a tiddler compared with Halliburton, unlikely to invest its small capital base in anything so risky as an oil well.

But where the company lacks financial clout, it boasts technology, expertise in the sub-sea developments that are at the cutting edge of the oil industry. The key is cost — while oil companies try to reduce their development and operating cost per barrel, they require more sophisticated technology. Today, oil service contracts are more than likely to include bonuses that allow the contractors to participate in any cost-savings. These developments are keeping Expro's margins at the heady level of 18 per cent and there must be concern that a long-term slide in the oil price could cause the business to contract but Expro's rapid geographic expansion is encouraging, as is its ability to sell cost-effective solutions. Any sign of weakness is a buying opportunity.



GWR

BAD news. GWR, the go-go commercial radio group, wants to expand into "radio-related areas". The domestic airwaves are full to bursting with anodyne pop stations and GWR has just formed a joint venture with Germany's Bertelsmann Music Group to launch a Classic fm record label. So GWR is seeking other ways to capitalise on the Classic fm brand. Are theme restaurants — a bizarre investment by Capital Radio — on the agenda? No comment from GWR.

While a Classic fm record label makes some sense, theme restaurants and other wild diversifications would be less welcome. GWR still has ample potential to boost margins and shareholder value by tweaking its core radio portfolio. Since flotation, the company has cherry-picked radio stations concluding with Classic fm, where GWR reached its maximum permitted market share. Classic fm is looking healthier but there is still room for improvement. More important, GWR could boost margins by trading poorly performing radio stations for profitable ones. Prices, however, are expensive.

GWR has done a good job of eliminating its money-losing foreign businesses and should look for more promising overseas opportunities. The arrival of digital radio next year will also create expansion opportunities in the United Kingdom. Digital radio will provide operators with unprecedented capacity, allowing them to develop new channels and formats. How about Classic fm opera or Classic fm rock? They are all possible. GWR should stick to what it knows best.

Wilmington

WHEN the likes of Reed Elsevier and Pearson talk about the global media marketplace, Brian Gilbert's eyes light up. The chief executive of Wilmington Group has created a publisher by taking the crumbs from the big media group's table and making superb profits from them. The likes of *European Cosmetic Markets* or *Production and Casting Report* perform rather well in a low-cost, well-run environment.

Its figures for the year to February 28 prove the point. Turnover was up a quarter to £31.6 million, profits up 54 per cent at £4.17 million and margins grew nicely to 13.4 per cent. The current shake-out at Emap might provide opportunities. Though Wilmington does not want the whole package of 14 titles, especially given that a bidder is rumoured to want to pay £25 million, it might like the meal and bakery titles to bolt on to its growing food markets publishing.

Should it do a deal, you can be sure Gilbert will not overpay. His business is a good long-term bet.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	1025-1024	Sep	1083-1082
Sep	1046-1045	Dec	1090-1085
Dec	1042-1040	Mar	1100-1096
Mar	1052-1050	May	1112-1100
May	1061-1060		
Jul	1072-1070		Volume: 4080

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1700 BID	Mar	1725 SLR
Sep	1730 BID	May	unq
Nov	1850-1740	Jul	
Jan	1730 BID		Volume: 0040

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	314.2-13.5
Spot: n/a		May	314.0-13.0
Aug	321.8-21.5	Aug	313.2-11.2
Oct	315.9-15.5	Oct	306.2-05.5
Dec	314.3-13.5		Volume: 4278

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on June 10

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	96.96	110.90	91.40
(+/-)	-1.04	-8.63	+0.76
Eng/Wales	96.91	110.92	90.53
(+/-)	-1.26	-8.58	+0.39
(%)	-31.0	-5.0	-6.0
Scotland	98.84	110.00	94.30
(+/-)	+1.74	-12.72	+1.67
(%)	-16.0	-11.0	n/c

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.15	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Jul)	17.85	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Aug)	18.10	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.15	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	19.40	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	195 (+2)	200 (+2)
GasOil EEC	162 (n/c)	164 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (n/c)	85 (n/c)
Naphtha	183 (n/c)	185 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jun	162.25-62.50	Sep	167.25-67.50
Jul	163.75-64.00	Oct	169.75-70.00
Aug	165.00-65.25		Vol: 22754

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jul	17.81-17.83	Oct	18.40-18.50
Aug	18.08-18.09	Nov	18.50 BID
Sep	18.26-18.30		Vol: 35561

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Jul	83.45
Sep	86.60
Nov	90.60
Jan	92.60
Mar	94.60
	Volume: 279

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Sep	84.25
Nov	87.25
Jan	89.25
Mar	91.00
May	92.50
	Volume: 13

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	45.0
Mar		90.0
Apr	89.0	96.7
		Volume: 176

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jul 72.75-73.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jun 97	1275	1260	1260
Jul 97	1195	1180	1180
Aug 97	1205	1190	1190
Oct 97	1351	1344	1347
Vol: 134 lots		Open interest: 2736	

Index 1257 +7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2641.0-2642.0	2541.0-2541.5	1499275
Lead ($/tonne)	620.0-630.0	635.0-640.0	176250
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1342.0-1342.5	1366.0-1366.5	529875
Tin ($/tonne)	5571.0-5572.0	5605.0-5606.0	36165
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1602.0-1603.0	1620.0-1621.0	1749425
Nickel ($/tonne)	7210.0-7215.0	7315.0-7320.0	73524

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom.	390	34	45	52	3	9	15½
(*417)	420	15	27½	35	13	21	32½
ASDA	120	8½	10½	14	1½	5	6½
(*126½)	130	3	5½	9	6	10	11
Boots	700	29½	43½	56	10	20½	29½
(*733½)	750	6	20	32½	43	51	57
Br Airways	700	36	59	73	9½	20½	27½
(*725)	750	10½	33	47	33½	44	51
BP	700	45½	62	74½	5	15½	21½
(*739)	750	15	23	46½	22	36½	43
Br Steel	140	13	13½	15½	3	6	8
(*152)	160	2	4½	6½	17	18	20½
C & W	500	47	65	75	6½	16	21½
(*538½)	550	16½	36½	47½	25½	37½	43
CU	700	36½	62½	81	17½	46	55½
(*719)	750	15	40½	58½	45½	74½	83
ICI	850	26	41½	59½	15½	34	40½
(*854)	900	7½	20	37	48	64½	69½
Land Sec	850	35	57	69	8	16½	24
(*872½)	900	9	30	42	31½	40½	47½
M & S	500	20	35½	45	7½	14	19½
(*511)	550	2	13	21	39½	43	46½
Nat West	750	50½	74	86	15½	29½	47
(*783)	800	22½	49	71	37½	64	71½
Safeway	330	32½	42	49½	1½	6	10½
(*359)	360	11	23½	32	11	17	22½
Sainsbury	360	16	25½	33	7	12½	17
(*368)	390	4	12	19	25½	29	33½
Shell	1200	41	73½	94½	16½	40	52
(*1216½)	1250	17	48	69	42	66½	77
Smkl Bch	1050	59	91	117	19	38½	53
(*1085)	1100	30½	65	90½	40½	61	76
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1900	55½	138	183	29	73	90
(*1939)	2000	39	89½	136½	81	123½	139
Series		**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
BAT Ind	550	40	54½	68	11	26	36
(*576½)	600	15½	31	44	34½	53	61½
Vodafone	280	15½	25½	33½	6	12½	17
(*288)	300	6	15½	23½	16½	22½	26½
Series		**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Grnd Met	550	26	40½	48	20½	27	30
(*557)	600	8½	20½	25½	52½	56½	59
Ladbroke	240	15	20	25½	7½	11½	14
(*245)	260	7	12	16	18½	22	24½
Utd Bisc	200	19½	23	26½	3	7½	8
(*213)	220	8½	12	16½	11½	17½	18

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	500	50	56½	65	2½	7½	11½
(*540½)	550	10½	24½	35½	20½	26½	31
Thames W	650	30	42	51	21½	30	38½
(*674)	700	8½	20½	30	54½	59½	69½
Series		**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
BTR	180	16	19½	24	5½	10½	13
(*190)	200	7½	10	15½	17	21½	24
Br Aero	1350	65½	94	126	36	57	67
(*1365½)	1400	41	68	98½	61½	81½	90½
Br Telecom	460	30	33	36½	16	22	27
(*478½)	500	9	14½	18½	43	47½	51½
Cadbury	500	36½	47½	57½	6	14½	17½
(*526)	550	12½	21½	32	29½	37½	42
Guinness	550	39½	46	57½	13½	21½	25
(*566½)	600	12	24½	33½	40½	47½	50½
GEC	360	12½	19½	24	18½	22	25½
(*360)	390	3½	10	13½	40½	42½	45½
Hanson	300	26½	32	39½	6½	12	15½
(*316½)	330	10½	17½	24½	20½	27	30½
LASMO	260	19	29½	35½	5½	10	13
(*271½)	280	9	20	25½	15	19½	22½
LucasVarity	200	13	17½	22	7½	11½	13
(*208)	220	4½	9	13	19½	22½	24
Pilkngtn	120	6½	—	—	8	—	—
(*120)	130	3	—	—	15	—	—
Prudential	650	36½	52½	71½	29½	43	48
(*651)	700	15½	31	49	58	71½	76
Redland	300	13½	40½	43½	4½	10½	12
(*325)	330	15	22½	27	16	23	25
R-Royce	240	20	27	32½	6½	10½	13½
(*251½)	260	9½	16½	22½	16	20	23
Tesco	360	34	40½	46½	4	10	13
(*365)	390	15	23	31	15	22½	26
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4721½)

	4600	4650	4700	4750	4800	4850
Calls						
Jun	144	105	67	37	17½	7
Jul	201½	163	127½	96½	72	51
Aug	219	182½	156	123½	100½	79
Sep	250	216½	185	153	129	105½
Dec	326½	—	264	—	210	—
Puts						
Jun	7	14½	27	49½	83	120½
Jul	41½	54½	71	92½	120½	150½
Aug	68½	79½	100	121	144½	176½
Sep	76½	97	116½	137	164	192
Dec	118½	—	154½	—	200	—

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Abby Natl	950	59	83½	107½	13½	25½	40½
(*987½)	1000	31½	58	81	35	56½	72½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1200	61	76	131	23	59½	78½
(*1224½)	1250	36	70½	105	51½	84	103
Natl Pwr	500	25	42½	51½	9½	19	25½
(*514)	550	6½	20	28	39	46	52
Series		**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
Glaxo Well	1250	56	86	115	23	55½	62½
(*1275)	1300	32	62½	86	48	80	87
HSBC	1900	71	129	152	57	106	129
(*1903½)	2000	30	86	136	115	164½	183½
Reuter	650	42	67	85½	6½	20	27
(*686½)	700	18	36½	58	26½	41	49
Royal & Sun	460	40½	54½	62	4½	12½	19
(*493½)	500	16	31	41	19	29	36½
Series		**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Blue Circ	420	26½	34½	44	9	17	22
(*431½)	460	8	16½	25	32	38½	43½
Series		**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Kingfishr	700	51	64½	78	11	20	27
(*731½)	750	22½	37	50	33	43	50
Series		**Jun**			**Jun**		
Br Gas	240	48	—	—	0	—	—
(*287½)	260	28	—	—	0	—	—
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Dixons	500	12	40	44½	4	23	26
(*506½)	550	0	11½	23½	41½	54	59
EMI Group	1150	30	68	91	9	54	64½
(*1165)	1200	0	46	69½	78½	82½	92
Tarmac	120	7½	12½	15½	0½	3½	6½
(*127)	130	1½	6½	10	4½	5	11½
Hillsdwn	180	3½	10	—	1½	5½	—
(*181½)	200	0	2	—	19½	19	—
Lucrno	130	6	11	14½	0½	5	6½
(*135)	140	1	6½	9½	5½	10½	12
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	240	17	22½	25½	0	6½	8½
(*256½)	260	2½	10½	14½	5½	16½	19
Lloyds TSB	600	43	64½	81	2½	22½	31
(*641)	650	5½	36½	55	10	44½	52
Scot Pwr	360	17½	27½	31	1	15½	18½
(*376½)	390	2	12½	16	15	33	35½
Unilever	1600	44	127½	157½	0½	16½	21
(*1635½)	1700	11	64	94	24½	54	68½

June 11, 1997 Tot: 53080 Calls: 25466 Puts: 27614 FTSE Calls: 8128 Puts: 8520
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	113-29	114-05	113-25	114-00	2097
Previous open interest: 159860	Sep 97	113-14	113-26	113-11	113-19	63895
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	100.84	101.05	100.69	100.76	159795
Previous open interest: 226618	Dec 97	99.63	99.83	99.53	99.53	160
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	130.12	130.90	130.08	130.80	77768
Previous open interest: 84189	Dec 97	103.85	103.85	103.85	104.00	350
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	123.74	123.91	123.70	123.88	2826
	Dec 97				123.08	0
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.28	93.29	93.27	93.28	9449
	Sep 97	93.07	93.11	93.06	93.09	19077
Previous open interest: 554565	Dec 97	92.91	92.95	92.91	92.92	23026
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.96	96.87	96.86	96.87	22631
Previous open interest: 1407901	Sep 97	96.81	96.83	96.81	96.82	28222
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	93.06	93.12	93.06	93.11	17915
Previous open interest: 330492	Sep 97	93.27	93.35	93.27	93.33	29097
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97	99.29	99.29	99.28	99.29	70
	Dec 97	99.06	99.07	99.06	99.06	35
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.59	98.67	98.58	98.66	10273
Previous open interest: 151564	Sep 97	98.49	98.62	98.48	98.57	14558
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.82	95.83	95.81	95.82	457
Previous open interest: 34595	Sep 97	95.78	95.81	95.78	95.80	721
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4756.0	4764.0	4720.0	4740.0	15571
Previous open interest: 82430	Sep 97	4780.0	4792.0	4755.0	4772.5	5312

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 3 Week fixed: 5
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6½, close 3.					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	7
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.69	5.84	6.09
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	3⅛-3	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	3⅛-3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	⅛-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $343.15-343.45 **Close:** $343.90-344.40 **High:** $343.90-344.40
Low: $343.90-344.40 **AM:** $343.70 **PM:** $343.80

Krugerrand: $343.50-345.50 (£210.00-212.00)

Platinum: $458.00 (£279.95) **Silver:** $4.78 (£2.915) **Palladium:** $218.00 (£133.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for June 11	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1544-3.1612	3.1564-3.1597	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	57.860-58.010	57.885-57.991	18-13pr	53-46pr
Copenhagen	10.680-10.702	10.684-10.694	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.0749-1.0847	1.0807-1.0826	5-1pr	12-6pr
Frankfurt	2.8047-2.8082	2.8061-2.8081	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	283.63-284.61	284.01-284.26	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	237.19-237.92	237.40-237.55	28-18pr	92-74pr
Milan	2763.5-2774.9	2764.8-2767.2	3-19ds	13-35ds
Montreal	2.2668-2.2777	2.2694-2.2707	0.0060-0.64pr	1.32-1.24pr
New York	1.6352-1.6418	1.6367-1.6374	0.1260-0.107pr	0.368-0.337pr
Oslo	11.708-11.726	11.712-11.726	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.4830-9.5040	9.4888-9.4961	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.692-12.754	12.700-12.717	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	181.45-182.11	182.18-182.37	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	19.736-19.776	19.746-19.763	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3480-2.3554	2.3506-2.3526	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium pr. Discount ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3189-1.3197
Austria	12.07-12.08
Belgium (Coml)	35.40-35.44
Canada	1.3869-1.3874
Denmark	6.5302-6.5330
France	5.8000-5.8030
Germany	1.7149-1.7154
Hong Kong	7.7405-7.7415
Ireland	1.5105-1.5125
Italy	1690.5-1691.0
Japan	110.95-111.00
Malaysia	2.5139-2.5144
Netherlands	1.9288-1.9293
Norway	7.1558-7.1631
Portugal	173.62-173.67
Singapore	1.4180-1.4190
Spain	145.10-145.20
Sweden	7.7620-7.7695
Switzerland	1.4360-1.4370

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6356-1.6393
Australia dollar	2.1581-2.1611
Bahrain dinar	0.6120-0.6240
Brazil real*	1.7533-1.7578
China yuan	13.436-13.736
Cyprus pound	0.8230-0.8330
Finland markka	8.3875-8.5035
Greece drachma	444.0-451.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.6658-12.6767
India rupee	58.22-59.18
Indonesia rupiah	3980.3-4014.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4875-0.4975
Malaysia ringgit	4.1115-4.1148
New Zealand dollar	2.3614-2.3652
Pakistan rupee	65.65 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9050-6.0290
Singapore dollar	2.3101-2.3222
S Africa rand (com)	7.3270-7.4290
U A E dirham	5.9575-6.0815

Barclays Bank GTS • *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,100	Land Secs	935
ASDA Gp	5,400	Legal & Gn	1,000
Abbey Ntl	3,600	Lloyds TSB	17,800
Allied Dom	3,800	LucasVarity	7,600
AB Foods	4,000	Marks Spr	8,700
BAA	1,300	Mercury Ast	305
BAT Inds	12,700	NatWst Bk	7,400
BG	5,500	Nat Grid	5,100
BOC	1,300	Nat Power	1,300
BP	5,100	Next	813
BSkyB	1,000	Orange	602
BTR	8,000	P & O	1,200
BT	18,000	Pearson	1,300
Bk of Scot	4,800	PowerGen	2,100
Barclays	6,600	Prudential	7,400
Bass	3,200	RMC	159
Blue Circle	1,300	Railtrack	360
Boots	1,700	Rank Group	3,300
BAe	1,900	Reckitt Col	1,200
BA	4,900	Reed Intl	2,000
British Land	2,900	Rentokil	3,500
Brit Steel	9,400	Reuters	2,200
Burmah Csl	1,100	Rio Tinto	3,800
Burton	9,100	Rolls Royce	4,100
Cable Wire	8,100	Royal & Sun	6,000
Cadbury	1,700	Royal Bk Sct	3,200
Carlton Cms	1,100	Safeway	5,700
Centrica	19,400	Sainsbury	2,700
Cm Union	4,300	Schroders	30
Dixons	2,300	Scot & New	1,400
EMI	898	Scot Power	3,200
Energy Gp	17,900	Svrn Trent	1,200
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Shell Trans	4,300
GKN	201	Siebe	3,000
GRE	2,300	SmKl Bch	2,400
GUS	1,800	Smith Nph	9,100
Gen Acc	1,100	Smiths Inds	853
Gen Elec	18,300	Std Chartd	3,000
Glaxo Well	7,600	TI Gp	1,500
Granada	6,100	Tate & Lyle	227
Grand Met	12,800	Tesco	8,400
Guinness	4,000	Thames W	229
HSBC	1,800	Tomkins	4,300
Hanson	1,900	Unilever	1,800
Hays	2,300	Utd Utilities	1,500
ICI	4,600	Utd News	1,700
Imp Tob	4,300	Vodafone	4,400
Kingfisher	2,000	Whitbread	1,900
LASMO	5,700	Wolseley	1,000
Ladbroke	4,800	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Jun 11 midday	Jun 10 close
AMP Inc	40½	40½
AMR Corp	95	94½
AT & T	36½	36½
Abbott Labs	64½	64½
Advanced Micro	39½	39½
Aetna Life	106½	107½
Ahmanson (HF)	44½	44½
Air Prod & Chem	82½	80½
AirTouch Comm	28½	28½
Albertson's	36½	37
Alcan Aluminm	36½	36½
Allied Signal	79½	79½
Alum Co of Am	75½	74½
Amerada Hess	54½	54
Amer El Power	40½	40½
Amer Express	72½	71½
Amer Genl Corp	45½	45½
Amer Home Pr	76½	76½
Amer Intl	142½	141½
Amer Stores	47½	47½
Amer Standard	49½	49½
Ameritech	66½	66½
Amgen	62½	62½
Amoco	90½	90½
Andrew Corp	26	25½
Anheuser Busch	42	43½
Apple Computer	16½	16½
Archer Daniels	21½	21½
Armco	4	3½
Armstrong Wrld	69½	69½
Asarco	31	31
Atl Richfield	145	144½
Allied Corp	25	25½
Auto Data Pro	48½	48½
Avery Dennison	37	37
Avon Products	66½	67½
Baker Hughes	36½	36
Baltim Gas & El	28	28½
Bank One	43½	43½
BankAmerica	136½	135½
Bank of NY	44½	44½
Bankers Tr NY	87½	87½
Barnett Bank	52½	52½
Bausch & Lomb	43½	43½
Baxter Intl	54	54
Bectn Dickinsn	48	48½
Bell Atlantic	74	73½
Bellsouth	45½	45½
Black & Decker	36½	36½
Block (H&R)	34½	34½
Boeing	57½	57½
Boise Cascade	36	36½
Boston Scien	56½	56½
Bristol Myrs Sq	75½	74½
Browning Ferris	32½	33½
Brunswick	30½	30½
Burlington Nthn	84½	83½
CMS Energy Corp	35½	[illegible]
CNA Financial	102	103½
CPC Intl	84	83½
CSX	52½	51½
Campbell Soup	49½	48½
Can Pacific	27½	27½
Carolina Pwr	34½	34½
Case Corp	69½	69½
Caterpillar	104	103½
Central & SW	20½	20½
Champion Intl	48	48½
Chase Manhtn	98	98½
Chevron Corp	73½	73½
Chrysler	32½	33½
Chubb Corp	64	64
Cigna Corp	170	172½
Citicorp	118½	118½
Clorox	128½	130
Coastal Corp	51½	51½
Coca Cola	69	69½
Coca Cola Ent	21½	21½
Colgate-Palm	65½	64½
Columbia Gas	65½	65½
Columbia/HCA	36½	36½
Compaq Comp	102½	103½
Comp Ass Intl	55½	56
Conagra	61½	61½
Cons Edison	29½	29½
Cons Nat Gas	54½	53½
Cooper Inds	52½	52½
Corestates	55½	55½
Corning Inc	54½	54
Crestar Finl	39	39½
Crown Cork	57½	57½
Dana Corp	36	37½
Dayton Hudson	52½	52½
Deere	54½	54½
Delta Air Lines	96½	96
Deluxe Corp	32½	32½
Digital Equip	44½	44½
Dillard Dept St	34½	34½
Disney (Walt)	81½	81½
Dominion Res	38½	38½
Donnelley (RR)	37½	37½
Dover Corp	59½	59½
Dow Chemical	86½	86½
Dow Jones	42	41½
Dresser	38	38
Duke Power	45	45½
Dun & Bradsrect	25½	25½
Du Pont	111½	110½
Eastman Chem	60	60
Eastman Kodak	81	81½

	Jun 11 midday	Jun 10 close
Eaton Corp	83½	84
Edison Intl	21½	21½
Elect Data Sys	39½	39½
Emerson Elec	55½	55½
Engelhard Corp	21½	21½
Enron Corp	41	40½
Entergy	26½	26½
Ethyl Corp	9½	9½
Exxon	61½	60½
FMC Corp	73½	73
FPL Group	46½	46½
Federal Express	54½	54½
First Bk Sys	82½	82½
Fleet Finl Grp	61½	61½
Fluor Corp	54½	54
Ford Motor	38½	38
Fortune Brands	32½	32
GTE Corp	45½	45½
Gannett	96	96
Gap Inc Del	36	35½
Gencorp	21½	21½
Gen Dynamics	75	74½
Gen Electric	63½	61½
Gen Mills	62½	61½
Gen Motors	58½	57½
Gen Reinsurance	179½	181½
Gen Signal	44½	44½
Genuine Parts	35	35
Georgia Pac	87½	86½
Gillette	94½	93½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	42½	41½
Goodrich (BF)	45	45
Goodyear Tire	60½	59½
Gt Atl Pac Tea	27½	27½
Great Wstn Fin	51½	50½
Halliburton	81½	80½
Harcourt General	48½	48½
Heinz (HJ)	44½	44½
Hercules	46½	46½
Hershey Foods	56½	55½
Hewlett Packard	52½	52½
Hilton Hotels	26½	26½
Home Depot	66½	66½
Homestake Mng	13½	13½
Honeywell	75	74½
Household Intl	103½	102½
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	24½	24½
ITT Corp	59½	59½
Ikon Office	29½	29½
Illinois Tool	50½	50½
Illinova	20½	20½
INCO	32½	32½
Ingersoll Rand	58½	58½
Inland Steel	25½	25
Intel Corp	145½	145½
IBM	86½	86½
Intl Flav & Fr	46½	46½
Intl Paper	49½	49½
James River Va	37½	36½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	62½	61½
Kellogg	81½	81½
Kerr-McGee	64½	64½
Kimberly-Clark	52	51½
Kmart	13½	13½
Knight-Ridder	45½	44½
Lilly (Eli)	102½	99½
Limited Inc	19½	19½
Lincoln Nat	67½	67½
Litton	47½	48½
Liz Claiborne	46½	46½
Lockheed Martin	93½	93½
Louisiana Pac	19½	19½
MCI Comm	41½	41
Manpower Inc	45½	45½
Marriott Int	57½	58½
Marsh & McLen	136½	136½
Masco Corp	39½	39½
May Dept St	46½	46½
Maytag Corp	27½	27½
McDonalds	49½	48½
McDonnell D	70	69½
McGraw Hill	56½	56½
Mead Corp	65½	64½
Medtronic	78½	77½
Mellon Bk	44½	44½
Merck Inc	96½	94½
Merrill Lynch	57½	59½
Microsoft	125½	124½
Minnesota Mine	94½	94½
Mobil Corp	139½	139
Monsanto	45	45½
Morgan (JP)	110½	111½
Motorola Inc	67½	66½
Natl Semi	27½	27½
Natl Service Ind	44½	44½
Navistar Intl	18	18½
NY Times A	48½	48
Newmont Mng	38½	38½
Niag Mohawk	8½	8½
Nike B	58½	56½
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	15½	15
Nordstrom	48½	48
Norfolk Sthrn	96½	96½
Nthn State Pwr	48½	48½
Norwest Corp	55½	55½
Nynex Corp	56½	56½
Occidental Pet	23½	23½
Ohio Edison	21½	21½

	Jun 11 midday	Jun 10 close
Oracle	47½	47½
Oryx Energy Co	22½	22½
Owens Corning	42½	42½
PPG Industries	57½	57½
PMI Group	58½	58½
PNC Bank	42½	42½
PP&L Res	20	20
Paccar Inc	47½	46½
Pacificorp	21½	21
Pac Enterprises	33	33
Pall Corp	23½	24½
Parker Hannifin	56½	56½
Peco Energy	19½	19½
Penney (JC)	52½	52½
Pennzoil	57½	57½
Pepsico	37½	37½
Pfizer	108½	108½
Pharm & Upjhn	35½	35½
Phelps Dodge	86½	86½
Philip Morris	42½	42½
Phillips Pet	44½	43½
Pitney Bowes	72½	71½
Polaroid	50½	50½
Procter & Gmbl	139½	138½
Providian	59½	59½
Pub Serv E & G	24½	24½
Quaker Oats	41½	41½
Ralston Purina	85	84½
Raychem Corp	72½	72½
Raytheon	52½	51½
Reebok Intl	41½	41½
Reynolds Metals	71½	70
Rockwell Intl	60½	60½
Rohm & Haas	87½	88
Royal Dutch	198½	198½
Rubbermaid	29	28½
SBC Comms	58½	57½
Safeco Corp	45½	45½
St Paul's Cos	77½	77
Salomon Inc	56	55½
Sara Lee Corp	42½	42
Schering Plough	45½	46½
Schlumberger	121½	120
Seagram	41½	41½
Sears Roebuck	52½	52½
Shell Trans	119½	119½
Sherwin Wllms	30½	30½
Skyline Corp	24½	24½
Snap-On-Tools	39½	39½
Southern Co	21½	21½
Sprint Corp	49½	49½
Stanley Works	42½	41½
Sun Company	31½	30½
Sun Microsys	34½	33½
Suntrust	54½	54½
Supervalu	34	34½
Sysco Corp	36½	36
TRW Inc	54½	54½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
TIC Hldgs	28½	28½
Tandem Comp	14½	13½
Tandy Corp	54½	54½
Temple Inland	59½	58½
Tenet Healthcare	28½	28½
Tenneco	45½	44½
Texaco	112½	111½
Texas Inst	85½	86½
Texas Utilities	32½	32½
Textron	61½	61
Thermo Elect	37½	37½
Time Warner	50½	49½
Times-Mirror A	58½	58
Timken	35½	35½
Torchmark	69½	69½
Toys R Us	31½	31½
Transamerica	92½	93
Travelers	61½	60½
Tribune	45½	45
Tyco Intl	63	63½
UST Inc	28½	28½
UAL	75½	75½
US Inds	37½	37½
US West Comm	37½	36½
US West Media	21½	22½
USAirways Group	34½	33½
USX Marathon	29½	29½
Unicom	21½	21½
Unilever NV	202	201
Union Camp	53½	52½
Union Carbide	47½	47½
Union Pacific	69½	68½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USF&G Corp	22½	22½
US Life	50½	49½
United Tech	80½	80½
Unocal Corp	41½	41½
VF Corp	79½	79½
Wal-Mart Stores	31½	31½
Warner-Lambert	104½	103½
Waste Mngmt	32½	32½
Wells Fargo	270½	268½
Westinghouse El	21½	21½
Weyerhaeuser	51½	50½
Whirlpool	51½	51½
Whitman	23½	23½
Winn Dixie	40½	40
Woolworth	25½	25½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	65½	65½
Xerox	69½	69½
Zenith Elect	12	11½

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TEMPUS

ld of hope?

Don't be a pushover on takeovers

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Most of us start with some prejudice about takeover bids. To some, including the old Labour Party, they epitomise the heartless machinations of greedy, cigar-chomping tycoons bent on an insatiable quest for monopoly profits and power over their fellows: a self-serving conspiracy against consumers and workers. To others, including the intellectual godfathers of the Thatcher era, they represent the essence of sacred market forces that bring efficiency and grow wealth via the triumph of the fittest in a "market for control".

To more cynical folk, mergers, acquisitions, demergers and buyouts, collectively the M&A trade, are fairground rackets run by City folk on the make and milked by speculators. Bankers, brokers, lawyers and accountants rake in billions in fees by persuading vain chief executives and gullible boards to play their zero-sum games.

The short and silly story of Energy Group seems to bear out the cynics. When privatised at a humble price in 1990 as Eastern Electricity, its business was to supply 3 million households in the East of England and Home Counties. That is still its main business. In the intervening six and a half years, however, it has grown like a corporate snowball.

Eastern was taken over by Hanson as soon as state protection expired, at what appeared a hugely inflated price until higher prices were paid for others. Hanson built it up with big purchases of power stations, making it a key integrated player in a competitive electricity market. It also started developing seriously as a multi-utility in gas and telephones.

Then Lord Hanson, archetypal predatory imperialist of the 1980s, offered his shareholders one final retirement spectacular: a grand, four-way demerger on the model pioneered by the late Alexander the Great's generals. For this purpose, Eastern was combined with America's Peabody coal mines in a corporate entity so brazenly constructed to appeal to an acquisitive American energy group as to make a Soho tart seem prim by comparison.

The financial rouge did its job. Within months of the demerger Energy Group is talking terms with PacifiCorp, another of those American power companies whose grandiose ambitions seem to be worryingly out of scale with their equity capital or experience.

There is ammunition here for all the contradictory prejudices. The takeover and the putative bid are about corporate power and profit margins. The merry-go-round has been an expensive zero-sum game. Those of us lucky enough to own shares in Eastern Electricity or Energy Group are sitting pretty. Top managers have remained much the same and fared even better. Shareholders in Hanson, many of them the same people or funds, lost badly.

Yet changes of ownership have enabled Eastern to adapt to changing circumstances ahead of the pack. Employees may have suffered job losses faster because of the threat of takeover, but efficiency would have been forced on Eastern by regulation and later competition, which also protected customers. And Hanson, the archetypal predator, proved the generous long-term builder.

Far from backing prejudice, the Energy/Eastern saga confirms what most people who follow the M&A business soon discover. Takeover bids are no more a good thing or a bad thing than other aspects of free markets. There are good takeovers, malign ones and a vast number that matter nought for public policy.

So it is good news that Labour in power will abandon its presumption in opposition that takeover bids are against the public interest. But it is no surprise. Lord Borrie, whose advice was sought on this reversal, saw as many takeovers pass through his hands as director-general of fair Trading as anyone. Lord Borrie also knows that to discriminate against hostile takeovers merely transfers gains from investors to managers. The Government should let the City play its games and intervene only for specific ends. It would be a pity, though, if Margaret Beckett, old Labour President of the Board of Trade, became such a convert to new Labour thinking that she bought the variant of merger control set up by Lord Tebbit during in his stint in charge.

The Tebbit doctrine wanted mergers to be referred to and judged by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission only on competition grounds. Other tests in the legislation, such as the impact on employment or regional economies, were shelved. But competition is itself an equivocal test.

The MMC perennially finds that mergers increase concentration — that's what most are for — but lets them through anyway. Some of the most creative mergers are seemingly anti-competitive, not least those which formed the present GEC with the blessing of a former Labour government.

As the Tories so often discovered at our expense, deregulation of markets frequently breeds big rises in public spending on welfare *et al*. The loss of big companies headquartered in regions with low incomes or high unemployment costs taxpayers a packet.

For the economy, the costliest takeovers are those made as a substitute for riskier capital investment on new products or expansion. There are lots of them, enough to squeeze the total growth of the economy.

Tax signals may be the purest guides to economic forces, but Mrs Beckett can help directly through selective, necessarily fallible action on mergers. Her decision on the latest pointless brewery merger and a new letter to the competition authorities could tell the corporate world that Labour means business on competition and that acquisitions will not be the easy option for managers without the skill or courage to take risks.

BA's American alliance should not be cleared for take-off

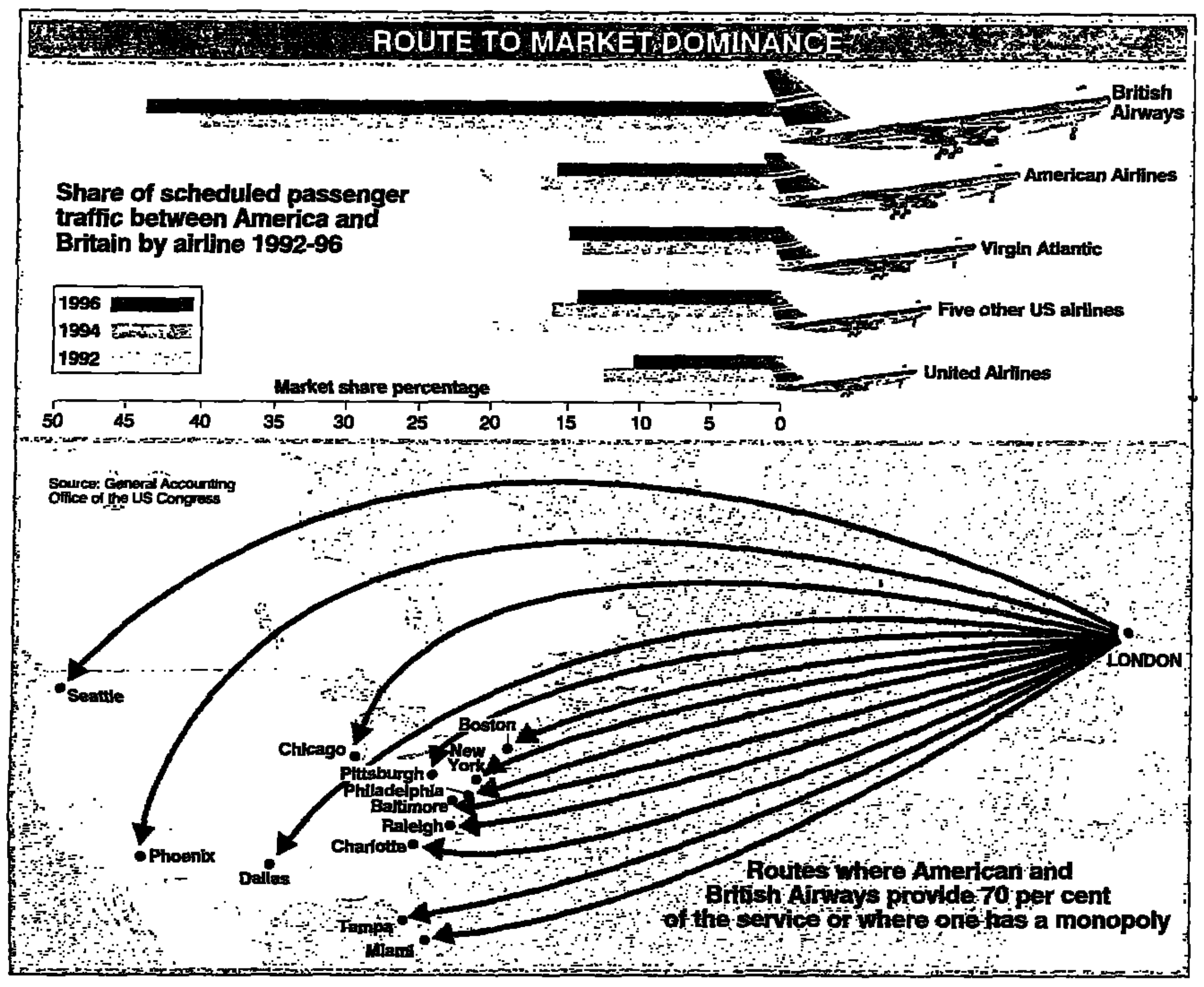
The proposed link-up would damage competition, says **Bronwen Maddox**

The swirls and calligraphy of British Airways's new livery were designed well before Tony Blair's triumph. So was the strategy that has inspired the change of image: an aggressive international expansion, resting above all on the hope that the alliance with American Airlines will be approved by the British and American authorities.

The proposed alliance, like Camelot directors' pay, is the kind of business controversy that acts as a Rorschach test for politicians, revealing where their instincts towards competition really lie. On both sides of the Atlantic, until this month, the test suggested that the two governments backed the interests of national champions above those of the public and competition.

Until the May election, the alliance, announced last summer, looked like a done deal. Now Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has a chance to correct the mistake that the previous Government was about to make, and hold a much more searching inquiry into the potential harm from the merger. At the same time, she has a chance to show that new Labour, in contrast to old Labour and to John Major's Government, is committed to a competition policy that actually promotes competition.

The alliance would allow BA and American to merge their ticketing, codes and frequent flyer programmes on transatlantic routes: in effect, they would act as one airline. Together, they would carry 60 per cent of the passengers travelling between Britain and the US, and an even higher proportion between Britain and some key US cities. In Britain, they hope the Department of Trade and Industry will approve the deal without a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission; in the US, they want the Justice Department to grant exemption from antitrust investigations.



Source: General Accounting Office of the US Congress

They have reason to hope for such indulgent treatment because the issue has become fused with the two countries' latest attempt to strike an "open skies" treaty: a relaxation of the strict regulations curbing access to each others' markets. The US Government, which has long wanted access to Heathrow for more US airlines, has made an open skies deal its condition for allowing the alliance. Mr Major's Government, which appeared to back the alliance, subject to some curbs, was wrangling with the terms of the open skies deal when the guillotine of the election fell.

With the change of government, all bets are off, fuelling this month's high-energy lobbying efforts on both sides of the Atlantic. In Washington last week, a Senate committee hearing assembled for the first time an all-star panel of the protagonists. For those, in the current fashion, who like their corporate battles highly personalised, it was perfect theatre.

On one side, Robert Crandall, chairman of American Airlines, was paired with the less emphatic Robert Ayling, chief executive of BA. Tight-lipped and narrow-faced, Crandall drove home every point with a jab of the finger, like a character from *Glengarry, Glenross*, David Mamet's classic drama of the eleventh-hour sales pitch.

Against them were ranged Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, and Sir Freddie Laker, founder of Skytrain in the 1970s. Branson, in open-necked shirt, delivered a script of ambitious metaphors (calling his rivals "international jewel thieves snatching away the precious gem of competition") in his curiously underwhelming London accent, like a public schoolboy trying to play King Lear without sacrificing street-smart attitude. Laker scored on charm, thanking the American people and their antitrust laws for helping him win a settlement from BA and other carriers in his darkest hour.

Theatrical distractions aside, Branson and Laker are in the right: the two main arguments put forward by BA and American are nonsense; the deal would hurt competition; the remedies suggested by the Office of Fair Trading do not consider deeply enough the most contentious points.

The first claim of BA and American is that because their alliance would lead to an open skies agreement, it would help competition. They make an excellent case for an open skies agreement, but there is no reason to conclude that their deal, which could water down its benefits to passengers, should proceed at the same time. The two issues have become fused only because the Conservative Government appeared to identify the national interest with BA's interests.

By taking the position that Britain was "getting something" out of the merger, Mr Major's Government also gave ground more easily than it need have done in open skies negotiations, securing virtually none of the access to the huge US domestic market which it had, rightly, originally wanted.

The second argument of the two airlines is that their combined share of the US to Britain market would not be "too great" because it would be less than other airlines or alliances have at several European airports. They point out that Sabena has 56 per cent of the scheduled flights from Brussels, SAS 58 per cent at Copenhagen and Lufthansa 60 per cent at Frankfurt. But the fact that services to some Continental cities are dominated by one airline does not justify making the same mistake in London.

As a remedy for the threat to competition posed by the alliance, the OFT has recommended to the DTI that the alliance could go ahead provided that 12 roundtrip slots be made available to competitors each day. In the US, the General Accounting Office, the non-partisan research arm of Congress, has declared this inadequate. Based on analysis of the routes where the alliance would be dominant (see map), it suggests that slots for at least 23 daily round trips be made available. The US Department of Transport provisionally proferred a figure of 30; other US airlines, unsurprisingly, have come up with even higher numbers.

Clearly, there is room for argument about the right number. But these analyses, so far, are all inadequate because they avoid the central question of where the extra slots will come from if they are not all to be surrendered by BA and AA, a prospect the alliance fiercely resists.

The heart of the problem is that there is little space at Heathrow in which to squeeze more competition. If Ms Beckett really wants to get to grips with the conundrum, she should consider auctioning off the prized landing slots, as many witnesses to Heathrow planning inquiries have recommended. At present, they are doled out free on the basis of historical patterns of traffic, modified somewhat by lobbying efforts; as airlines pay nothing for them, it is unsurprising that demand continues to rise. Estimates of the annual revenue to the UK Treasury from selling off this scarce resource range from £250 million to £500 million. Not being retrospective, it would have more legitimacy than the windfall tax.

That this proposal was not in the Labour manifesto does not, of course, mean that it is not about to be announced tomorrow. But for all the temptations of the adrenalin of the Government's first month, there is no advantage for Ms Beckett in moving precipitously on these questions. She should press ahead with open skies talks, judge the proposed alliance separately, and seize the chance which previous governments have missed to consider a truly radical opening of the market in landing slots at Heathrow. That is the only route likely to provide lasting competition.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Merger depletes shareholders' rights

From Mr Michael Faraday

Sir, The Guinness-GM merger is yet another example of how companies discriminate against their individual shareholders in favour of the pension funds and other tax-favoured institutions which can deliver block votes in support of the directors' plans.

These large one-off dividends suffer tax in the hands of individuals, sometimes at 40 per cent. This amounts to a compulsory depletion of those individuals' capital, which would not have happened had the companies not wished to bribe their institutional shareholders.

It has long been a scandal, tacitly encouraged by the Stock Exchange. But could we expect otherwise from a body which set up the Crest system, which has also deprived individual shareholders of their rights?

Yours faithfully,
M. A. FARADAY,
47 York Gardens,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey.

PGA points

From the Managing Director of PGA European Tour Courses plc

Sir, Your article (Leeds chief sued over £30 million Algarve deal, June 3, 1997) stated that the legal action being taken by Roger Abraham against Richard Thompson and other parties "could leave PGA European Tour Courses plc open to an £8 million damages claim". Your article further stated that the accounts for PGA European Tour Courses plc disclose that the "potential liability (of the legal action) could be as much as £8 million".

The following points should be made clear to your readers, since the article was, in our opinion, misleading and did not describe the full situation for the listed reasons:

1. Any claim against PGA European Tour Courses plc would have to be the subject of a separate action by Mr Abraham, since the company is not a party to the current court case in any way.
2. Should Mr Abraham decide to bring an action against PGA European Tour Courses plc, the company has been indemnified by Mr Richard Thompson against any claim up to an amount of £8 million. This was disclosed in the listing particulars dated April 19, 1996.
3. There is, therefore, no mention of a potential liability of £8 million regarding the legal action by Mr Abraham in the report and accounts. No legal action is being taken against the company. The liability that is referred to in the accounts appertains to an entirely different matter, involving certain warranties and indemnities provided to PGA European Tour Courses (IMG) Ltd, full details of which were disclosed in the listing particulars. They relate to the group's commercial property portfolio, which has now largely been sold at a profit to book value.
4. It should also be made clear that PGA European Tour Courses plc is quoted on the official list of the London Stock Exchange, not the Alternative Investment Market, and that the company owns 100 per cent of Quinta do Lago.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN KELLY,
Managing Director,
PGA European Tour Courses plc,
77a Windsor Road,
Chobham,
Surrey.

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Top of the flops

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

OH DEAR. A sad victim of Labour's desire to sweep away the trappings of the past is the Extel Survey of Investment Analysts, one of the City's most nerve-racking occasions as the teenage scribblers find out where they are in the hit parade this year. They have been known to calm their nerves with the odd glass or four. Not this year: the event falls on July 2, Budget day. The venue had to be booked ages ahead, at a time when the Budget might have been expected to fall on a Tuesday, and not in midsummer either. "It's always the first Wednesday in July," says an Extel insider plaintively. The ceremony will be cut short to allow guests to catch, sober, the Chancellor's speech.

"You won't believe this, but we've already been raided this morning"

● *MICHAEL HARDERN, the carpet-bagger pushing for conversion of the Nationwide, increased his pressure on the building society yesterday. He drove into the car of Alistair Dales, the finance director. "It was an accident," claimed Hardern unconvincingly. He was parking outside the Nationwide's offices in Holborn, where the annual results were being announced. No damage — and the Nationwide generously said it would take no action.*

Chinese wall

BUSINESS is business. The managing director of Chase Manhattan Bank (Hong Kong) is interviewed this evening for Channel Four's *Dispatches*, which looks at how companies have already made compromises with Beijing. In an interview, Anthony Leung, who is also a member of the executive council set up to run the colony under Chinese rule, describes the Tiananmen Square massacre as "clumsy". Twice. It would have been better to use water cannon and teargas rather than tanks and machine guns. "But the suppression, I believe, is being held by most Hong Kong people as right."

Piled high

SOME musical chairs at Tesco's head office at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, are being watched with interest by the underlings there. Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth's rather impressive office fell vacant when he retired on Friday. A debate ensued. Terry Leahy, the chief executive, is a down-to-earth Liverpudlian. A Leahy occupation would smack of delusions of grandeur. The new chairman, John Gardiner, is part-time, so hardly needs the space. The other contender is David Reid. But should a deputy chairman occupy a larger area than the man who runs the company? A compromise has been reached. Leahy gets the office occupied by David Malpas, the managing director who retired in February. So he gets more space.

Lord MacLaurin's office goes to Reid, on the grounds that he is also finance director and holds meetings with auditors, accountants and the rest. Of course. So he gets an upgrade too. His old office, bigger than Leahy's, goes to Gardiner. So the chairman has a bolt-hole. This might seem trivial, but only to anyone who has not worked in a large organisation.

● *IF YOU are wondering how they have run up $300 million-plus of bills out of the BCCI scandal, then consider the following vignette. One adviser is having lunch with a senior journalist. At the end he calls for two bills, one for food and a rather smaller one for drink. The first goes to the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, rescuer of the bank. The second would offend his Islamic principles, so it cannot be charged direct. But who eventually pays? Well, the Sheikh has already put up $1.8 billion. Do the dunes notice another grain of sand?*

Memory lane

WHEN Marks & Spencer chairman Sir Richard Greenbury claims that the company's store on Edinburgh's Princes Street means, above all other branches, something "exceptionally special" to him, he is being sincere. Commitments in London will prevent him from attending today's celebrations, 40 years to the day since the store opened. But Sir Richard has been recalling his Edinburgh connections. He was an employee at the store that day, as a departmental manager. "I was in menswear then, and for a year I rented a flat nearby, in the city's Rose Street, famous for its pubs. I also met the woman who was to become my wife. She was one of our Saturday part-time girls while she was studying at Edinburgh University."

MARTIN WALLER

Happy anniversary: Sir Richard Greenbury in nostalgic mood

Housing recovery makes Meyer optimistic

By Adam Jones

MEYER International, owner of the reorganised Jewson building merchant's chain, said yesterday that it was cautiously optimistic about trading this year as benefits from the housing recovery begin to filter through.

The shares rose 11½p to 426½p after Meyer announced better than expected annual profits in the year ended March 31 of £45.4 million before tax, compared with £37.6 million before exceptionals in the previous year.

The company also said that Alan Peterson, currently chief operating officer, will succeed John Dobby as chief executive at the end of the year. Harry Langman, the chairman, will retire in September and be succeeded by Tony Palmer, who is a former chief executive of Taylor & Woodrow and a current non-executive director.

Mr Peterson said that this year's optimism was tinged with caution because of the geographical patchiness of the housing market revival.

The Jewson chain, which provided more than a third of the group's £1.139 billion turnover, draws about 11 per cent of its sales from London and the South East of England, with the rest spread across the UK.

Improvements in the key market for property repair, maintenance and improvement were only noticed in February and March, the last two months of the 1996-97 financial year. This was tempered by bad winter weather in many of the group's locations.

Mr Peterson said that the company was looking for further acquisitions in laminates distribution in the US. A final dividend of 7.8p, compared with 7.3p, is due to be paid on September 1, making a total payout of 12p (11.5p last time).

TONY WHITE

John Dobby, left, with Alan Peterson, chief operating officer, who is to succeed him as chief executive of Meyer International at the end of the year

BAe 'chooses side' in dogfight for $170bn US fighter deal

By Oliver August

BRITISH AEROSPACE is believed to have made a decision on which bid to join in the dogfight over the world's biggest defence order.

Boeing and Lockheed Martin, the two US aerospace groups, are competing to build the $170 billion Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), America's military aircraft for the 21st century, after BAe's own bid was rejected last year.

An announcement on the JSF had been planned for the Paris Air Show, which starts on Saturday, but BAe pulled the plug this week in the wake of continuing uncertainty over the £45 billion Eurofighter project. The announcement is now expected later this month.

BAe is committed to joining one of the two bids. The company's decision on which one will be of crucial importance to its performance over the next two decades.

If it chooses the bidder that loses it will miss out on subcontracting work on up to 6,000 military aircraft and access to the latest American technology.

Lockheed Martin is seen as the frontrunner because Boeing is BAe's main rival in civil aviation. Boeing and Airbus, of which BAe is a member, are direct competitors.

Industry insiders said that BAe could not link up with Boeing on military aircraft while competing on commercial planes.

A second reason to choose Lockheed is the American group's close relationship with BAe and Airbus. But such strategic reasoning may have been discarded by BAe executives, who have repeatedly expressed interest in Boeing's bid. It is said to be technologically more advanced and has the added advantage of also including McDonnell Douglas, BAe's partner in its own failed bid.

The JSF will be the first aircraft to combine the stealth characteristics of the B2 and the vertical take-off capability of the Harrier, which was originally developed by BAe.

The US Government will decide between the Boeing and Lockheed bids in 2001 and the first aircraft are scheduled to roll off the production lines in 2008.

Air International magazine said of the contract: "It is expected to be the most important military aircraft programme in the early decades of the next century. The global total could easily expand to 5,000-6,000 units."

Waddington makes record profits

WADDINGTON, the specialist printing and board manufacturing group, reported record sales and profits yesterday and announced plans to invest £30 million in capital equipment (Oliver August writes).

Martin Buckley, the chief executive, said the group last year continued to focus efforts and investment on niche sectors of growing markets where it holds a leading position. He said: "The benefits of this strategy are reflected in record sales and profits. We are well placed to continue this excellent progress."

In the year to March 29, pretax profits rose from £11.7 million to £32.1 milllion. Earnings per share were 21.57p (7.45p) and the total dividend is lifted to 10.4p (9.4p). The final dividend of 6p (5.4p) will be paid on August 7.

The company said it expected market growth in all sectors in 1998 and had installed capacity to meet the expected demand. The pharmaceutical packaging business was singled out for especially strong organic growth. Mr Buckley said benefits were expected from new equipment at its domestic specialist printing operation, particularly in the year to March 1999.

The £30 million investment programme will particularly support growth opportunities in pharmaceutical packaging and specialist printing.

Gibraltar can sell insurance services in EU

From Dominique Serle in Gibraltar

AFTER a decade of limited expansion, Gibraltar's finance centre industry yesterday welcomed as a major breakthrough clearance from the UK Government to market insurance services in Britain and the European Union.

The clearance, announced by Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, comes after years of debate, months of intense discussions and reforms to legislation and supervision that are now expected to clear the way also for the provision of banking and investment services.

The move means that insurance companies set up, approved and supervised in Gibraltar will have the right to branch into the European Union without further authorisation.

The change comes after an audit by an independent review team drawn from the Treasury in London, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Bank of England, and the Securities and Investments Board. However, political observers believe that the Spanish Government is likely to try to raise obstacles to companies selling into Spain. Mr Caruana said it had been made clear that Britain was prepared to defend Gibraltar's rights on this issue.

Meanwhile, Peter Montegriffo, Gibraltar's Trade and Industry Minister, is expected in Cologne for an insurance conference where he will announce the insurance products that can now be sold in competition with other offshore centres such as Dublin.

With defence spending down dramatically, Gibraltar is hoping to build its economic future on tourism and finance centre activity, focusing on the opportunity of being an independent common-law British jurisdiction within the EU.

P&O Stena Line worries Brussels

By Fraser Nelson

P&O has been warned by the European Commission that its plans to merge its cross-Channel operations with those of Stena have raised "serious doubts" in Brussels.

The Commission has officially voiced concerns that the merged operation — P&O Stena Line — should operate entirely independently from its two parents. It is also worried that the merged operators could eventually run a duopoly with Eurotunnel.

However, it has accepted P&O's arguments that ferry operators needed to club together to fend off competition from Eurotunnel in winning freight orders. A spokesman for P&O said that the company considered the Commission's remarks as an "amber light" for the merger.

He said that the joint company already had its own management in place, and added that the company expected final outcome should meet with regulators' approval both in Britain and in Brussels.

Analysts said that Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was likely to present a stiffer hurdle. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has finished a report on the proposed merger, and the DTI is expected to give its decision within the next few days.

ACCOUNTANCY

Get to grips with intangibles

Raymond Perrier on the need to enforce discipline over brand valuation

Are accountants no longer measuring what really generates value in companies? A recent study by Interbrand and Citibank would suggest that changes in the world of brands, intangible assets and financial reporting are long overdue.

The Accounting Standards Board (ASB) guidelines on accounting for acquired goodwill and intangibles are due for imminent publication. The recognition that brands (and other intangible assets) are not the same as goodwill and should be treated differently for recognition and amortisation purposes will finally have been formalised.

But this is only the first stage of the debate about brands on the balance sheet. Focus should now shift to the second stage: not "Should we value brands?", but "How should we value brands?". We believe that if brands are to start appearing on balance sheets again, a degree of professional discipline is required, and that the time is ripe for an institute of brand valuation.

The ASB continues to lead the world in the debate on the balance sheet recognition of intangibles. The French and Australian accounting bodies are watching closely, and preparers and users of accounts in their countries are as keen as their UK counterparts to see a true and fair view of the value of intangibles.

Even the IASC is beginning to think the unthinkable and explore how it can improve the way intangibles are accounted for and, in particular, what amortisation requirements they should face.

Resolving these questions deals with only a part of the problem. Acquired intangibles may be important, but they pale into insignificance alongside internally developed intangibles. The "gap" that exists between the value on a company's balance sheet and the real value of the business is getting larger and larger.

A recent study by Citibank and Interbrand showed that the proportion of the value of companies supported by balance sheet assets was 34 per cent across the FT-SE 350, and only 22 per cent for heavily branded companies.

Of course, the role of financial statements is not to duplicate the market but rather to provide information that the market can use as an integrity check for its own judgments. But that does not mean the problem can be ignored.

"If financial statements are measuring less and less of what it is that is truly valuable in a company, then we start to eliminate the ability of that integrity check to be as useful as it has been." The words not of an accounting iconoclast but of Steve Wallmann, SEC commissioner, in *Forbes* magazine.

But there are historic limitations to the balance sheet, and we should recognise that the types of assets that make up much of the gap are different in nature to traditional balance sheets. One solution is for a new kind of report — a "statement of intellectual capital" — to provide some of the missing information. This would sit alongside the balance sheet and be prepared and audited in an appropriate way to establish comparability between companies and over time.

In the meantime, acquired brands and other intangibles are about to start appearing more often on balance sheets. Having started this debate, there is a responsibility on the UK business community (and I don't just mean accountants) to show how the recognition of intangibles can be done in a way that provides useful and reliable information to shareholders.

These dual needs are sometimes seen as potentially conflicting. But this is the same conflict that is faced in preparing every other aspect of a company's accounts, and no honest reader of a balance sheet or a P&L can pretend that there is no element of judgment within this "social science".

However, even social sciences have their orthodoxies and academies. Surely the time has come for a professional body — an institute of brand valuation — that can bring together the brand owners, the brand valuers, the investment community and the auditors.

There are some serious issues that need to be addressed: acceptable methods of valuation, levels of disclosure, required expertise, treatments of revaluations, and conflicts of interest.

Brand marketers have become used to facing increased discipline in how they account internally for their brands. Preparers of accounts should perhaps start to recognise that they need the same sort of discipline if they are not to undermine credibility before they start.

Just giving the nod to a directors' valuation is perhaps not a good place to start.

Raymond Perrier is brand evaluation director for Interbrand.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Raymond Perrier says serious issues need to be addressed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Don't count on harmony

THE debate over the harmonisation of international accounting standards has never been characterised by diplomacy and tactful statements.

There was, for example, the point at which the Americans referred to the role of Sir David Tweedie, the chairman of the UK Accounting Standards Board, as being on a par with that of a telephone operator. Sir David responded by having a sign to that effect made up, and he now displays it on his office desk. However, last week's Coopers & Lybrand conference on the subject reached new heights. In a lively lunchtime presentation, James Cochrane, senior vice-president of the New York Stock Exchange, decided to vent his spleen on the US standard-setting body, the FASB, which is currently waiting for a decision on a new chairman. Referring to its current efforts he suggested that "the lunatics have taken over the asylum". And they say the debate is dull.

Archaic Scots

IT IS always difficult to dream up a new title within the profession. The Scots are wondering about launching a new second-tier training system, but they are unsure what to call people who gain the proposed qualification. First, they thought of Associate CA, which sounded good, then realised that ACA is what fully-qualified English chartered accountants call themselves, and that they might be snooty about second-tier Scots seeming to have ideas above their station. So they have reverted to the archaic. They are thinking of calling the new accountants "licentiates", which sounds suitably learned and serious. Those with long memories are recalling the ill-fated proposals for a full merger of the profession back in 1969. They were to be called licentiates then, too.

PR confusion

ARTHUR ANDERSEN has always had an ambivalent attitude towards public relations.

It follows the American view that accountancy firms should keep themselves to themselves. However, the firm also believes in the UK view that you should get out and about and tell people what is going on.

People at the heart of this schizophrenia tend to become confused. Tim Prizeman, Andersen's in-house public relations man, is off to form his own company. It will be based in the City and will advise accountants, lawyers and anyone else who needs help.

ROBERT BRUCE

IASC looks to have turned the corner

IT IS hardly surprising that finance directors tend to take the view that arguments about international accounting standards are hardly worth participating in. The problem is the scale of the politics between all the interested parties. The arguments have nothing to do with whether or not a bank can do this or that with its figures in New York; they are all about the pecking order of the standard-setting bodies around the world.

Hence a flurry of press releases from the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) in the past few days. "22 Arab nations support the adoption of international accounting standards," says one. "People's Republic of China to participate in setting international accounting standards," says another. But the highest stakes are those involving the US.

When IOSCO, the body representing international stock exchanges, reached a pact with the IASC that if a proper programme of basic standards could be ratified then it would recognise those standards as an entry level to international listings, the potential impact of that decision took a long time to sink in.

The US accounting standard setters, the FASB, tended to argue that the existing US rules were superior, and that, by and large, was that. A recognition process might be put into practice, but nothing would come of it.

The world would continue to beat a patch to the US door and ask, in a suitably reverent way, if they could be admitted. The all-powerful Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was equally guarded.

But the IASC has plugged away at its task. And last week, at a conference organised by Coopers & Lybrand in London, it looked as though it might have turned the corner. There is now a real possibility that companies from across the globe could gain listing in New York by following the IASC's standards. And that, in a nutshell, is what the whole process is about.

There is still a long way to go. The IASC has much work to do on the treatment of financial instruments, for example. And the target of having its programme wrapped up by April next year seems ever more ambitious. As one man from BMW put it in a question from the floor: "In Germany we expect it to be the longest April ever." But the tide has turned.

One significant point was the attitude of Sir David Tweedie. As chairman of the UK Accounting Standards Board (ASB), his role is pivotal. And in the past he has tended to play the canny Scot and not let on precisely where his sympathies lie, except in the abstract sense of seeking truth in financial reporting. But last week his attitude was very different.

Sir David said that if domestic standard setters found that they were out of step on one or two issues, as the UK is on pensions and on deferred tax, for example, then the answer would be to decide what was worth going to the wall over and what was worth giving up for the greater global good.

The one thing that should not be allowed is for global standards to be placed in peril by taking on something for political, rather than financial reporting, reasons. "We must not internationalise someone else's political compromise," he argued.

So the Tweedie line now is to try to fit the IASC agenda rather than fight against it. And the rest of the Anglo-Saxon world is likely to do the same. Japan will remain its own curious problem, but the biggest difficulty will be the rest of Europe, where financial reporting often is not close to Anglo-Saxon practice.

The cultural change alone towards the relative openness of such financial reporting rules will be very, very difficult. The German use of secret reserves would vanish. And that is not something that German business will relish.

The other powerful voice in favour of pragmatism was that of James Cochrane, senior vice-president of the New York Stock Exchange. Admittedly his job is to enhance and enlarge the role of the exchange overseas and so his inclinations are likely to be towards allowing more overseas companies to gain a listing.

But he railed more against the reactionary forces employed against the IASC's efforts. In particular he singled out analysts, on the grounds that they hate change, and US accountants. US accounting firms, he argued, know the US rules and have less of a knowledge of international rules, and so have a vested interest in keeping knowledge of US rules rare and valuable. Their market is in advising foreign companies on US rules. So they would rather not see the whole process thrown open. This was backed up by one participant at the conference who reported "polite amused indulgence" when he had asked for advice from US firms.

And Cochrane also argued that the SEC was more likely to endorse the IASC programme than not. On this point people are still sceptical. It will be one thing for the SEC to agree in principle. But it is likely to stick to giving foreign companies a hard time over the detail of their financial reporting before a listing can be agreed.

So it looks as though many of the battles are reaching resolution. And the political battles ahead may fall to the same sort of pragmatic concerns. Finance directors would now do well to start dusting off their own intentions and start taking part.

AUDIT

ROBERT BRUCE

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Ionica sets date for delayed flotation

By Eric Reguly

IONICA, the wireless phone company, announced yesterday that its long-delayed flotation will finally proceed in July, raising about £125 million in new money.

The share placing, underwritten by SBC Warburg, is expected to value Ionica at about £600 million. Nigel Playford, the chief executive who founded the company in 1991, will own 6.3 per cent of the floated company, valuing his stake at about £38 million.

The shares will begin trading on the London and Nasdaq markets in mid-July. All the current shareholders, including Yorkshire Electricity, Doughty Hanson, Morgan Stanley Capital Partners and Bank of America are to keep their holdings, though they will be diluted by about 20 per cent.

Ionica uses digital radio technology to provide telecoms services to residential and small business customers. The system, which uses small, window-mounted antennae, is cheaper to install than cable-telephony systems because no digging is required. Analysts estimate that it costs Ionica about £300 to connect a customer, against £500 or more to connect a cable customer.

The company's marketing strategy is based on undercutting British Telecom's prices and providing features such as three lines per number and voicemail. The arrival of "number portability" means that customers can keep their existing numbers when they switch to Ionica.

Ionica launched commercial operations in the East of England a year ago, more than a year behind schedule, and moved into the Midlands in February. It has some 22,000 customers and is aiming for 10 per cent penetration in the markets in which it operates. Waburg expects the company to generate revenues of £100 million in the 1998-99 financial year and as much as £750 million in 2001-02, when it should report its first pre-tax profits.

The company has raised £400 million in bank debt and high-yield debt to fund its expansion. About £150 million remains, enough to fund its operations until the end of the year. The flotation, which was initially planned for last autumn, removes the pressure to complete another debt financing before the end of the year.

☐ Colt, formerly City of London Telecommunications, is to build a local exchange network in Hamburg, the third German city in which it will offer services to corporate and government customers. The Hamburg development will cost about DM100 million and will employ up to 100 staff.

Victrex dips on warning

SHARES in Victrex fell 6½p to a low of 153½p as the plastics group gave warning that benefits of its plan to combat sterling's strength by lifting prices on the Continent, where it generates a third of its trade, cannot rescue full-year results and will not come through until mid-1998.

Results for the half year to March 31 confirmed the warning made in January, with pre-tax profit down to £5.05 million, from £6.35 million. Earnings per share were 4.7p (5.9p). The interim dividend is held at 1.5p.

A full-year profit down 11 per cent to £11.5 million is now expected.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Keith Stott, chief executive of WT Foods, left, with Rod Garland, finance director, who served up pre-tax profits which almost trebled to £1.4 million from £504,000 in the year to March 31. The company reported earnings of 1.6p a share, up from 0.48p, and the dividend increases to 1.5p from 1.35p, with a final 1p payable on August 1

Bradford Trust lifts asset value

By Martin Barrow

BRADFORD PROPERTY TRUST, the owner of tenanted residential property, achieved an 8 per cent rise in net asset value to 218p a share last year.

The increase reflects the overall improvement in the residential property markets in most parts of the country and an uplift in rents on regulated tenancies.

Philip Warner, chairman, said these rents were still below market levels achievable under assured and assured shorthold tenancies and that further increases were expected in the current year, although at a slower rate. In the year to April 5 the group's annualised rent roll was £31 million, up from £29.8 million.

Pre-tax profits increased 14 per cent to £29.1 million from £25.6 million, while earnings rose 12 per cent to 13.26p a share from 11.86p. A final dividend of 4.65p a share makes a total of 8.45p, up from 7.8p previously.

Mr Warner said: "The climate appears set fair with the residential markets for both investment and vacant properties improving." Although interest rates may continue to rise in the short-term, 75 per cent of the company's borrowings are fixed. At the year-end net borrowings were £87.5 million, up from £81.9 million.

Acquisitions of housing stock completed during the year totalled £18.3 million, including a portfolio from British Gas.

Chemring shares rally despite loss

By Martin Barrow

SHARES of Chemring Group, which have fallen to 76½p from 445p in the past 12 months, rallied 19½p to 99p yesterday.

The rise came after the industrial and defence products company announced the appointment of Ken Scobie, the company doctor, as chairman to succeed Sir William Barlow, who has held the post on an interim basis since March.

The shares rose despite news of pre-tax losses of £13.1 million before tax for the half-year to April 4, against profits of £4.47 million previously. The interim dividend is cut to 2p a share from 3.76p.

Headline losses reflect the heavy cost of restructuring the business, which incurred an operating loss of £1.19 million after suffering a 24 per cent decline in turnover to £31.17 million.

Total exceptional costs were £11.3 million and include provisions against the closure of the leisure clothing division, losses on property disposals and redundancy costs.

The company will seek to reduce borrowings, which rose to £16.2 million at the half-year stage. They stood at £15.6 million at the last year end.

The company said that it expects to earn an operating profit in the second half, albeit at a lower level than in the final six months of the previous financial year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fountain Forestry looks for growth

FOUNTAIN FORESTRY, the woodland management and shrub control company, returned pre-tax profits of £476,000 (£362,000) at the halfway stage to March 28, after winning a string of new contracts. The company raised £1.2 million from the flotation on the Alternative Investment Market in November, which it used to write off debt and buy new machinery to bolster its railway shrub control arm. Orders from Railtrack grew to £500,000, but the company said that the railside market is in its infancy and should show substantial growth over the next few years.

Barry Gamble, chief executive, said that the company still has £818,000 left over from the fundraising, and it is now considering making acquisitions either in the UK or the US. After interest payments delivered by the cash pile, earnings grew from 3.58p to 4.04p a share. A maiden interim dividend of 0.92p is due to be paid on July 21. The shares, which joined the market at 84½p, gained 8p to 103½p.

Fortune Oil investment

FORTUNE OIL, the Hong Kong based and London-listed oil distributor, is spending £3 million on a new mooring buoy for its main Chinese subsidiary, a sum equivalent to its annual profits. In return, Fortune has been promised £24 million of orders from Sinopex Maoming Petrochemical Corporation, its main client, over the next three years. The buoy, which will spearhead a £15 million syphoning system linking oil tankers to refineries, should also save £1 million a year. Fortune's shares gained ¾p to a high of 16¾p.

Tinsley advances

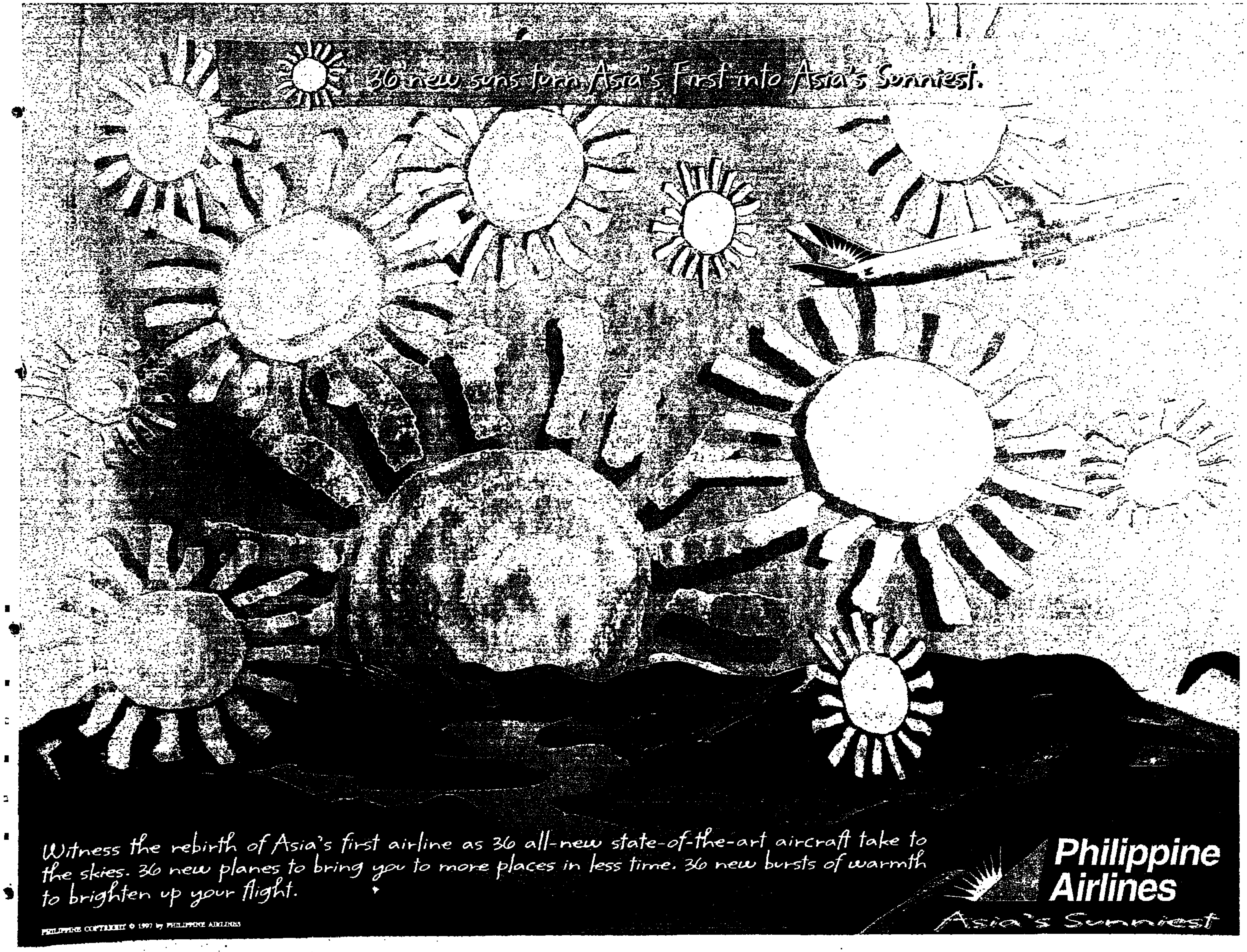
EXPANSION into industrial hardware helped Eliza Tinsley, the chains and hardware group, to lift pre-tax profits from £1.25 million to £2.01 million in the year to March 31. Last November's acquisitions of Evenwood and GR Smithson, specialist engineering companies, helped to offset flat results from its remaining chain operations. Earnings increased to 10.8p (9.01p) a share and a final dividend of 4p brings the total to 6.1p (5.8p), payable on October 1. Tinsley's shares increased 7½p to 115p.

European Colour ahead

EUROPEAN COLOUR, the pigments and coatings group, lifted full-year pre-tax profits to £3.8 million (£2.9 million) after integrating Tor Coatings, the graffiti-proof paint producer that it bought last August. The acquisition added £3.93 million to sales, helping earnings from 5.01p to 5.62p a share in the year to March 31. A final dividend of 1.57p will be paid on July 23, taking the total to 2.4p (2.2p). The company, which doubled its cash pile to £850,000, seeks further acquisitions.

Davis Service sells

THE Davis Service Service Group is raising £8.4 million with the sale of Pall Mall Service Group to Sutcliffe Catering, a subsidiary of Granada. Pall Mall provides catering, cleaning and support services to the public sector, including the Ministry of Defence, health service trusts and hospitals and local authorities. In 1996 the business incurred a loss of £163,000. Net assets attributable to the business being sold are £700,000.



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For AIB see Govett (John)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	777 10	826 50	+ 4.90	2.29
General Inc	643 90	685.00	+ 4.00	2.29
UK Growth Acc	538 90	573 40	+ 3.40	2.23
UK Growth Inc	344.60	366 60	+ 2.20	2.23
Higher Inc Acc	942.30	1002.50	+ 7.50	3.79
Higher Inc Inc	494.30	525.90	+ 3.90	3.79
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	220.60	232 00	+ 0.30	5.10
Gilts Fxd Int Inc	94 21	99.50	+ 0.15	5.10
Nth America	392 30	417 40	+ 0.40	
Europe	419 70	446 50	+ 2.40	0.05
Brit Excell	105 70	112 50	+ 0.70	2.42
Brit Fndmtls Acc	130 60	139.00	- 0.50	4.52
Brit Fndmtls Inc	86.19	91 70	+ 0.39	4.52
Global Opps	114 80	122 20	+ 0.70	
Balanced Acc	70.71	75.23	+ 0.38	2.05
Balanced Inc	65.35	69.53	+ 0.35	2.05
Japan Acc	45.51	48.42	+ 0.62	
Pac Basin Acc	408 00	434 10	+ 0.90	0.92
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	134 40	142 60†	- 0.10	6.53
High Inc Equity	205 80	220.10	+ 1.40	4.41
Worldwide Bond	272.10	288 60†	+ 1.10	3.86
American Growth	459.30	490 90	- 0.60	0.34
Asian Pacific	340 70	364 40	- 2.30	0.38
Assets & Earnings	325 80	348.40†	+ 2.00	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	222.10	237 50	+ 0.30	0.84
Extra Inc	33.81	36.61†	- 0.14	7.85
General	299 00	319 70	+ 1.70	2.89
Global Opps	79 78	84 87	- 0.07	0.47
Japan	108.30	115 80	+ 1.40	
Managed Inc	51.01	54.27†	+ 0.19	4.15
Mastertrust	187 70	200 70	+ 0.70	1.30
US Emerging Cos	185 60	199 50	- 1.60	
Ethical	85 90	91 38†	+ 0.27	1.79
International	149 70	159 30	+ 0.20	0.55
Dividend & Growth	76.43	81 37	+ 0.40	4.13
Global Gwth & Sec	76.36	81.50	+ 0.17	2.48
Latin America	89 15	94 84	- 0.53	0.41
Capital Reserve	149 30	149 30		4.60
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	104 70	111 30	+ 0.60	2.04
Equity Income	146.70	156 00	+ 1.00	3.88
Extra Income	284 30	302 40	+ 2.10	6.00
Smaller Cos	108 40	115 30	- 0.10	1.54
International	127 90	135.90†	+ 1.20	1.32
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2456 00	2561 00		

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	161.97	174 17†	- 0.87	0.75
UK Equity	107 49	114 76	+ 0.69	2.94
UK Equity & Bd	62.57	66.31	+ 0.31	6.11
UK Smlr Cos	53.80	57 55	+ 0.02	1.65
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	858.33	871.31	+ 18.02	3.97
Inv Fd Acc	869.37	882.51	+ 18.25	...
Fxd Int Sec Inc	158.51	158.15	+ 0.87	8.93
Fxd Int Sec Acc	162.13	162 77	+ 0.80	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	844.26	857 02	+ 4.72	4.04
Investment Acc	3981.33	4041.51	+22.46	
Fixed Int Inc	130.92	131.44	+ 0.60	8.83
Fixed Int Acc	249.04	250.04	+ 1.16	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	87.97	92.74	+ 0.03	5.40
Beck Bio-Tech	40 16	43.59†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	197.99	207 01†		0.45
City Fin Assets	85.01	89.27		1.86
City Fin Intl	95.38	100.03†	+ 0.53	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	330.03	351.10		2.27
Buckley Wrld Grth	148.95	157.89	- 0.49	
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	62.63	65.77		3.26
Shaw Utilities	68.50	70.06†	+ 0.59	4.87
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	61 78	65 59	- 0.14	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	90.21	95 97	+ 0.65	..
Dragon Growth	74 45	79.62	- 0.18	0.35
Equity High Inc	104.38	110 45†	+ 1.02	3.48
-do- Accum	154 82	163 61	+ 1.50	3.48
Extra Income Inc	27 71	29 16	+ 0.01	6.74
Extra Income Acc	31 38	33 03	+ 0.02	6.74
European Gwth	75 23	79.81	+ 0.66	0.24
Evergreen	33.23	35.54	+ 0.34	.
General Equity	122 46	129.25	+ 0.69	2.49
Japan Growth	46.18	49.13	+ 0.61	.
Pedigree Gwth	72.83	77 06	+ 0.49	1.97
Ped Sm Cos Inc	39.89	42.21†	+ 0.07	1.29
-do- Accum	42.72	45.21	+ 0.08	1.29
Retirement Inc #	31.43	33.44	+ 0.12	5.40
Special Sits	52.58	56.54	+ 0.30	2.57
UK & Overseas	68.47	72.46	+ 0.38	0.54
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 890 000				
Balanced	77.95	81 19	+ 0.31	3.81

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
New Japan	91 11	96.23	+ 1.86	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	214 70	228.30	+ 0.30	
Income #	248.97	264.86	+ 1.05	3.92
UK Growth	95.27	101 35	+ 0.52	1.83
Intl Growth	96.64	102.80	- 0.18	0.54
Ecology	112.42	119 59	+ 0.20	0.87
European	238.92	254 16	+ 0.65	0.20
Far Eastern	341 60	363 40	+ 1.30	
UK Special Sits	60 89	64 94	+ 0.01	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	59.25	63.70†	+ 0.09	
High Income #	56 16	59 90	+ 0.30	4.67

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	118 95	126.54	+ 0.58	0.55
Intl Bond	62 13	66.27†	- 0.01	4.79
Intl Equity Growth	95.95	101 92†	+ 0.59	0.43
N Amer Growth	160 07	169.95	+ 0.72	0.66
Special Sits Growth	31.95	33.98	+ 0.24	2.01
UK Growth	528.72	562.46	+ 4.00	2.46
-do- Accum	737 51	784 58	+ 5.58	2.46
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1530.90	1560 80†		2.70
Income #	1109 40	1125.70		4.40

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	103 80	107 30†		6.70
Euro Priv Inc	117 10	124 60	+ 0.30	2.75
-do- Accum	117 10	124 60	+ 0.30	2.75
Gilt Yield	121.90	123.60†	+ 0.30	6.29
Global Income	254 40	270 60†	+ 0.60	2.96
High Yield	185 80	197 70	+ 1.00	4.72
-do- Accum	626 70	666 70	+ 3.40	4.72
Money Market	100.03	100 03†	- 0.01	5.79
Smllr Cos Div	65 61	69 80†	- 0.08	3.71
Tomorrow's Co Eq Acc	1100 00	1116.00†	+ 5.00	2.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	170 10	181 00	- 1.00	
Accm Growth	313 30	333 30	+ 1.40	
-do- Accum	368 10	391 60	+ 1.70	
North American	126 10	134 10	+ 0.10	
European Special	150 60	160 40	+ 0.90	1.04
European	207 80	221 10†	+ 1.30	0.62
-do- Accum	276 40	294 00†	+ 1.60	0.62
Global Eqty Inc	136 70	145 10	+ 0.60	1.92
Japan	392 30	417 40†	- 1.60	
Japanese Special	208 60	221 90	+ 2.90	
Smaller Cos	157 50	167 60†	- 0.20	0.33
UK Equity Growth	63.70	67.77	- 0.08	1.05
UK Index Inc	369 70	391 70†	- 2.00	3.39
Bhcham Tst	117 00	125 70†	- 0.70	1.59
-do- Accum	119 00	127 90†	- 0.60	1.59
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Budge Income	347 58	369 77†	+ 0.67	4.46
Gilt Growth	110 37	117 52		1.29
Inc & Growth	78 75	83 21	+ 0.55	3.38
Smaller Cos	100 45	106 86	+ 0.34	1.10
Ever Spec Sit Inc	62.65	66 65†	- 0.10	1.70
Ever Spec Sit Acc	65 73	69 93†	- 0.09	1.70
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	516.50	549 00	+ 3.50	1.53
UK Inc/Gth #	553 60	587 40	+ 2.80	3.26
UK Income #	386 20	409 80†	+ 2.10	4.12
UK Sm Cos	311 50	333.20	- 0.90	1.77
Euro Gwth	180.20	192 70	+ 1.60	0.15
N Amer Gwth	141 40	150 00	+ 0.50	
Japan Growth	57.24	60 73	+ 0.71	
Gwth Port Inc	79.29	83 67	+ 0.25	0.63
Gwth Port Acc	80 61	85.06	+ 0.23	0.63
Inc Port Inc	69 74	73 60†	+ 0.22	3.70
Inc Port Acc	79.25	83.64†	+ 0.25	3.62
Wwde Port	64.17	67.73	+ 0.02	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist	672 90	678 90†	+ 4.10	2.41
-do- Accum	1416.00	1416 00†	+ 9.00	2.41
Equity Income	115.20	115.20	- 0.50	
UK Tactical Allocatn	78 53	78 93†	- 0.42	4.06
European	170 10	170 10	+ 1.10	0.66
Far Eastern	238 10	238 10	- 0.29	
Fixed Interest	56 30	56 30†	+ 0.02	6.82
Gilt	94.28	94 31	+ 0.27	6.06
Global Growth	29 05	29 05†	+ 0.44	0.26
Intl Bond	50.25	50.25	+ 0.12	4.82
Japanese	70 90	70 90	+ 0.79	
North American	255 90	255 90	+ 0.90	0.45
Pacific Growth	125 10	126 10	- 0.70	0.43
Pacific Index	49.26	49.26	- 0.22	1.98
UK Index	89 11	89 11	+ 0.51	2.89
UK Recovery	126 30	126 90†	+ 0.60	1.34
UK Smaller Cos	165 90	165 90		1.38
US Index	101 40	101 40†	- 0.40	1.00
European Index	107 30	107 30	+ 0.60	1.30

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	185.50	189 70†		4.03
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	99 38	102 50†	+ 0.20	6.42
M & S Inv Ptflo	198 90	205 00	+ 0.70	2.32
-do- Accum	238 40	245 70	+ 0.80	2.32
UK Sel Ptflio	178.70	184 30†	+ 0.80	2.32
-do- Accum	219 90	226 70†	+ 0.90	2.32
UK 100 Cos	140.30	140.30	+ 0.80	2.38
-do- Accum	143 80	143 80	+ 0.80	2.38
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 384 842				
Managed Tst	73.86	77.51		3.37
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	94 86	100.70†	+ 0.50	3.26
European	118 90	126.20	+ 0.30	0.33
Income #	95 95	101 90†	+ 1.10	3.79
Nth American	113.50	120 50†	- 0.10	0.01
Far East	200 10	212 40†	- 0.80	0.75
Japan	66.73	70.84	+ 1.02	
Emrgng Mkts	102 40	109 50	+ 0.30	
Intl Growth	152.30	161 70	+ 0.30	0.52
UK Growth	138 70	147 20	+ 1.60	2.17
UK Smlr Co	65.05	69.06†	+ 0.12	1.75
Asia Pacific	41.63	44.52†	- 0.56	0.46
Glob Gwth PEP	73.22	77 73	+ 0.28	0.30
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	111 60	118 80†		
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	535.51	570.01	+ 3.67	3.08
Global Inc	82 83	88 12	+ 0.47	3.41
Brit Leaders	432.46	460.06	+ 3.40	1.57
Intl Leaders	264.26	281 13	+ 1.70	0.62
PAM Mp Bal Gth	75 88	79.00	- 0.31	0.33
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	321 00	338 40	- 0.50	
-do- Accum	343 70	367 80	+ 0.50	
American Opps.	127 10	135.40	- 0.90	
-do- Accum	128 70	137 10	- 0.90	
British Blue Chip	112.30	119.20	+1 100	2.53
-do- Accum	146.50	155 50	+1 600	2.53
Cash	100 70	100 70		5.88
-do- Accum *	152 80	152.80		5.88
Emerging Mkts	154 70	165 80†	- 0.10	0.62
-do- Accum	156.40	168.20†	+ 0.10	0.62
European Growth	385 90	407 60	+2 000	0.47
-do- Accum	420 30	444 30	+2 000	0.47
European Income	100.30	106.00		3.87
-do- Accum	145.70	154 10	+0.100	3.87
General	676 70	719.70	+6 200	2.19
-do- Accum	1403.00	1492 00	+13 00	2.19
Global Bond	128 20	134 70	+0 100	4.70
-do- Accum	174.20	183.00	+0 200	4.70
Gold & General	186.40	199 80	- 1 10	0.37
-do- Accum	192 90	206 80	- 1.00	0.37
Govt Securities	96.21	99 19†	+0.070	5.30
-do- Accum	211 70	218.20†	+0.100	5.39
High Yield Bd	104 60	107 10†	+0.100	6.47
-do- Accum	115 70	118 60†	+0 100	6.47
Income	213 40	227 60†	+2.300	3.95
-do- Accum	365 80	388 50†	+3 800	3.95
Inc Portfolio #	122.70	129.30	+0 600	4.85
-do- Accum #	136 60	144 50	+0 700	4.85
Intl Opps.	617.50	658 70†	+2 600	0.73
-do- Accum	839 10	895 00†	+3 600	0.73

Earlier gains reversed

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
459	407½	Allied Domecq	418	-6½	7.1	12.5
535	515	Bulmer (HP)	515		3.3	15.3
75½	53½	Burn Stewart	54		7.9	13.4
1040	565	Glenmorangie A	787½		1.7	23.2
613	425½	Grand Met	557	-5½	3.7	17.7
615	424	Guinness	566½	-12	3.6	16.2
389	321½	Highland Dist	332		3.2	15.5
336	241	Matthew Clark	243	-6	12.3	11.6
109½	70½	Merrydown W	72		2.0	9.7
1972½	1452½	SA Breweries	1781½	-34½	2.2	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4705½	3671½	ABN-AMRO	4362½	-12½	2.6	18.2
971	710	Abbey Nat	989	-6½	3.2	15.7
666	532½	Alliance & Leic	619½	-4	3.3	15.2
479	388½	Allied Irish	476½	-3½	3.7	12.4
434	363½	Aus New Z	427½	-6½	4.5	
7678½	5753½	Bank America	7669½	-93½		
428½	291½	Bank Scotland†	394½	-10	2.6	12.0
1299	979½	Barclays	1227	+5	3.2	12.4
703½	517½	Bk of Ireland	664	-1	3.4	
7690½	5006½	Citicorp	7253½	+146½		
1759½	1268½	Commerzbk	1728½	+3½	2.5	
862½	569½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	743½	+29½	0.6	
3600	2759½	Deutsche Bk	3565½	-6½	1.8	
1131½	759½	Espirito Santo†	1131½	+125	2.2	
872½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	866½	-10	0.5	
1544½	1272½	HSBC	1906	-3½	2.7	16.5
1869½	1241	HSBC HK	1835½	-6	2.6	15.9
776	514	Halifax	756½	-5½	2.5	22.6
610	483½	Irish Perm	583½	-1½	2.9	
691	474	Lloyds TSB	642	-4	2.6	20.8
888½	689½	Nat Aust Bk	810	-12	4.7	11.7
844½	653½	Nat West	786	-18	4.6	11.8
663½	538	Ryl Bk Scot†	634½	-7	3.9	13.7
1046	691	Stand Chart	961½	-11	1.9	17.2
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.3	
374½	315½	Westpac	338	-6½	4.5	

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	730½	Bass†	746½	+5	4.3	14.0
68½	45½	Brit for the Bdr	46		4.9	12.6
205	153½	Burtonwd Bre	154		4.6	13.9
155½	122	City Centre Rest	137		2.4	21.8
744½	611½	Compass Gp	702	-1	1.6	25.7
305	250	Eldridge P A	292½		2.3	16.4

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465½	397½	Electrocomponts	428½	+1	2.3	23.9
226½	130½	Eurodis Elec	137	+1	4.5	19.5
97½	76½	European Mtr	83½	...	7.9	8.5
262	213	Evans Halshaw	221		9.3	
53½	40½	Fife Indmar	40½		10.2	8.1
397½	322½	Finelist Gp	324½		2.6	16.5
34½	25½	Gardner	25½	+½	4.6	9.8
79½	57½	Glenchewton	61½	-½	2.7	12.0
110	82½	Gowrings	97½	..	3.8	22.2
15½	11	HR Owen	13½		6.2	12.0
103	80½	Hartwell	80½	-½	8.5	7.5
267½	239½	Harris (Philip)	240½	-2	4.5	14.6
320½	294½	Headlam	302½	-1	2.4	20.0
156½	145	Holders Tech	156		5.2	14.2
240½	209	ISA Intl	221		1.6	17.9
308½	240½	Inchcape†	279½	-2	4.7	17.1
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)†	67½		4.2	10.4
259	214½	Kwik Fit	258½	+3	2.7	18.6
370	316½	Lex Service	363½	+2	5.5	13.0
122	100	Lookers	105		9.7	7.4
9	5½	Middlesex	8½		1.2	12.6
41½	24½	Minstabest	24½	-½	2.4	
472	195	Nortom	198	+1½	5.1	5.5
168½	131½	Northamber	142	-1	1.2	8.5
363½	305½	Panco	319½		3.1	16.8
404½	342½	Pendragon	361½		3.4	16.7
223½	187½	Perry Gp†	187½		6.0	8.9
751	456	Premier Farnell†	459½	-3	3.3	17.0
152½	124½	Quick Group	145½		6.0	9.9
350	307½	REA†	350		1.4	43.1
2½	1½	Reece	2	...		23.3
23	12½	Rotoss	17	-1	11.0	5.9
4	2½	Ross Gp	3½			
109½	78½	Rylands	95		5.3	17.0
38	24	SEP Ind	30½	+½	6.4	13.9
92½	50	Salter	51½		3.0	
415½	349½	Time Products	349½		4.4	
338	228	UMECO	328	+8	2.1	
77½	59	United Ocean Gp	75			16.3
352½	292½	Vardy (Reg)	300½	-½	2.8	13.6
685	498½	WF Elect	685		2.4	24.9
41	28	Wilshaw	30	-½	3.5	8.9
172½	132½	Wyko	133½	-1	2.5	15.6
154½	119½	Young (H)	143½	..	3.7	12.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

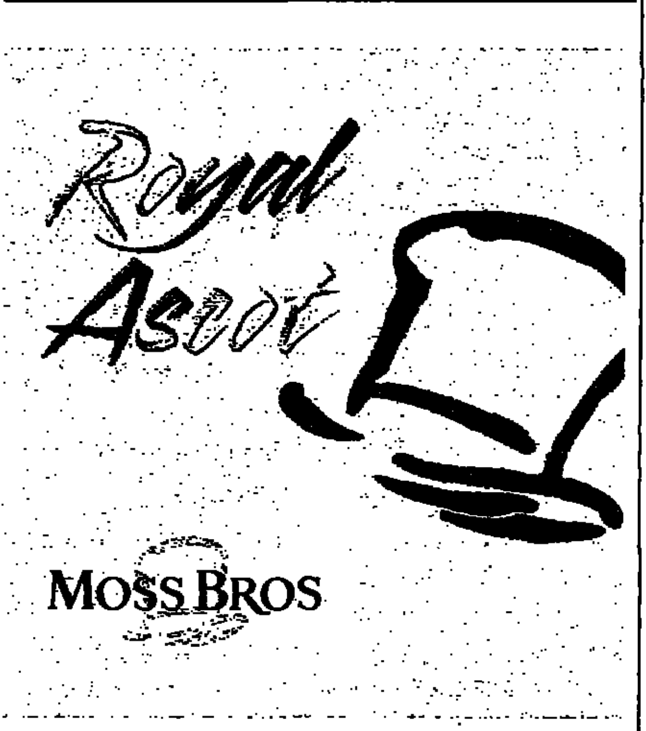
1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	377½	Antofagasta†	415		1.6	21.9
328	256	Ascot Hldgs†	256	-12½	2.5	
917	790	Broken Hill	865	-14½	2.7	20.3
210	180½	BTR	186	+1½	6.5	8.0
586	462	BAT†	575½	+4	5.6	17.3
196½	129	Cookson	191		3.6	10.3

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
48½	30	Simon Eng	47	+½	..	..
227½	119½	Six Hundred	124½		6.2	2.7
832½	739½	Smiths Ind	785	+½	2.7	19.1
737½	638½	Spirax-Sarco	698		2.7	18.4
303½	248½	SterGrp Ind	249½		4.5	12.5
594½	515	TI	562	-4½	3.3	18.4
116½	101½	Tinsley (E)	115	+7½	8.9	
120½	94½	TransTec†	97½	+3	3.0	13.8
206½	161½	Triplex Lloyd	162	-1½	5.4	9.2
167½	150½	Unicorn Intl†	155		5.0	9.4
77½	48½	Utd Inds†	64		4.7	18.5
273½	199½	Vickers	203½	-3½	4.4	12.2
10½	6½	Viktors Grp	10			
712½	585	Vitec	611		2.5	11.1
952	790½	Vosper Thorny	798½		4.2	12.6

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
94	78½	Edin Dragon	85½	-1		
39½	24	Edinburgh Inca	30½			
391	343½	Edinburgh IT†	381½	+2	3.5	30.4
134	102½	Edin Japan	133	-½		
502	420½	Electra Inv	485		2.2	45.4
267½	86½	English Nat	236	+3½	0.2	
156½	144½	Eng & Scot	153½	+½	2.4	39.9
409½	372	European Asset	396	+½	1.3	
108½	90½	Fidity Asian Val	102½	-1½	..	
260½	216½	Fidity Euro Val	257	+1	0.2	
50	36	Fidity Jap Val	49½		0.3	
136½	128	Fidity Spec Val	127		2.0	
228½	205½	Finsbury 'A'†	218½		2.2	
205½	162½	Fine Art Chief	205	+1½	1.5	
28½	21	Fine Art Wts	26½	+½		

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
73½	61½	Murray S/C Inc	62		23.6	5.0
3850	3150	Murray S/C Uts	3750	..	3.9	
485½	419	Murray Small	460½		1.4	68.0
402½	387	Murray Ventr	395½	+½	4.7	22.1
5½	5½	Newmarket	5½			
437	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	437	+2½	1.1	
238	156½	O'seas Wts	237½	+4		
125	97½	Pacific Assets	100½	-2	0.5	
113	98	Perp Inc Grt	110½	+½	4.1	
56	41	Perpetual Jap	55½	+½		
366½	316½	Perpl Uk Sm Co	322½	...	3.7	28.9
£148½	£128½	Personal Assets	£147½		2.0	
128½	109½	Pilot Inv	120		2.2	48.9
134½	113½	ProMide Inc	119½	+½	4.9	27.4

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
803½	502½	Flextech	571½			
232½	213½	GGT Group	226		3.3	15.8
227½	169½	GWR Gp	174½	+3½	1.3	
387½	300½	Greenhouse Group	339	..	2.2	16.9
34½	27½	Goodhead	28½		1.1	17.4
319½	243½	Grampian	318	+½	2.8	21.9
372½	277½	HTV Group	315½	-1	1.6	37.9
287½	207½	Haynes Pub	225		6.0	10.3
22½	12	Highbury Hse	12½			
230	195	Hodder Hdine	199		4.1	15.0
285	243	Home Counts	280		2.6	54.5
388	295	ISC	352½		3.0	13.8
26½	19	Incepta	19½			21.0
332½	297½	Independent	312½	+7½	2.4	...



Documents disclosed for criminal trial can be used in civil case

Mahon and Another v Rahn and Others

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment May 23]

There was no implied undertaking in criminal proceedings such as existed in civil proceedings that documents disclosed by the prosecution to the defendants would not be used by the defendants in subsequent civil proceedings without the leave of the court.

Accordingly, it was not an abuse of process to bring a libel action based on documents previously disclosed to the plaintiffs as defendants in an unsuccessful criminal prosecution, whether or not the documents had been read to or by the court or referred to in open court in those criminal proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Patrick Mahon and Andrew Leslie Kent, against the decision on June 19, 1996 of Mr Justice Brooke in which he struck out their action for libel against the defendants, Christian Rahn, Hans-Jakob Biederman, Martin Haab-Biedermann and Frank Bodmer, on the ground that the documents sued on were obtained by the plaintiffs by way of disclosure in unsuccessful criminal proceedings against them and thus constituted an abuse of process.

Mr Charles Gray, QC and Miss Victoria Sharp for the plaintiffs; Mr Patrick Moloney for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that one of the issues was whether there was an implied undertaking in criminal discovery as there was in civil? Several matters needed to be examined to decide that issue:

What was the scope of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings?

In civil proceedings a party who obtained discovery might use the documents disclosed to him only for the proper purposes of conducting his own case and there was an implied undertaking by him not to use them for any collateral or ulterior purpose.

Misuse of the documents might be restrained by injunction or punished as a contempt. An action based on a misused document would ordinarily be dismissed as an abuse of process.

Once the document had been read to or by the court or referred to in open court, the matter was governed by Order 24, rule 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court which provided:

"Any undertaking, whether express or implied, not to use a document for any purposes other than those of the proceedings in which it is disclosed shall cease to apply to such document after it has been read to or by the court or referred to in open court, unless the court for special reasons has otherwise ordered on the application of a party or of the person to whom the document belongs."

Rule 14A was considered in *Tejendra Singh v Christie* (*The Times* November 11, 1993), where Mr Justice Drake had held that a plaintiff could not use the document in question as the basis for defamation actions.

The exact scope of rule 14A was not a matter which had to be decided in the present case. However, Mr Justice Drake's narrow interpretation of rule 14A sat uneasily with its wide wording. The decision had to be read in the light of the dicta of Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor in *Derby & Co Ltd v Weldon (No 2)* (*The Times* October 20, 1988):

"The purpose behind rule 14A is to produce the result, save in truly exceptional circumstances, that once a document has been used and referred to in open court, it is a public document and no special undertaking continues." The defendants relied on that dictum, applying it by analogy to criminal proceedings.

What was the rationale for the existence of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings?

In *Riddick v Thames Board Mills Ltd* ([1977] QB 881, 896, 901-903) the Court of Appeal held that a party who disclosed a document on discovery was entitled to the protection of the court against any use of it otherwise than in the action in which it was disclosed. In the interests of public policy and the proper administration of justice, the plaintiff was not entitled to use it as the basis for a subsequent defamation action.

His Lordship also referred to *Home Office v Harman* ([1983] 1 AC 280, 300, 308); *Derby & Co Ltd v Weldon (No 2)*; and *Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v Fountain Page Ltd* ([1991] 1 WLR 756, 765).

It was therefore apparent that the rationale for the existence of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings was based upon:

1 The "compulsion principle": discovery compelled a party to disclose documents and was therefore an invasion of his privacy. A litigant's rights gave way to the need to do justice between the parties. Confidentiality was irrelevant. Voluntary disclosure did not attract the undertaking.

2 The "full and frank disclosure principle": the invasion of a litigant's rights was counterbalanced by the limitation placed on the use to which the documents might be put, in order to encourage full and frank disclosure. That was achieved by the implied undertaking by the recipient to the court.

What authority existed as to the existence of such an implied undertaking in criminal proceedings?

Mr Justice Brook's attention had been drawn by counsel to three cases where the issue had been raised whether there was an implied undertaking in criminal proceedings: *British Coal Corporation v Dennis Rye Ltd (No 2)* ([1988] 1 WLR 1113); *Ex parte Coventry Newspapers Ltd* ([1993] QB 278); and *McGrath v Chief Constable of Lancashire* ((unreported) April 3, 1996). The present court had been referred to *Taylor v Director of the Serious Fraud Office* ((unreported) July 26, 1996.

In summary, those decisions seemed to recognise the necessity of an implied undertaking in criminal proceedings. In the *British Coal Corporation* case it was unnecessary for the court to decide whether an implied undertaking existed.

In the *Ex parte Coventry Newspapers* case the existence of an implied undertaking was assumed and the only issue before the court was its variation.

The *McGrath* case did decide that an implied undertaking applied to the "used" material as defined in that case. Mr Justice Forbes declined to draw a distinction between used and unused material. In *Taylor* the documents in question had not been read or referred to in open court.

The rationale advanced in those authorities was that an implied undertaking was necessary in criminal proceedings to reassure and thus not deter informers, and the fear of a flood of defamation actions.

What was the position in relation to discovery in criminal proceedings?

In criminal proceedings the law relating to the disclosure of documents had been a mixture of common law and statute: see *R v Bryant and Dickson* ((1946) 31 Cr App R 146); *Dallison v Caffrey* ([1965] 1 QB 348); *Attorney-General's Guidelines (Disclosure of Information to the Defence in cases to be tried on Indictment)* ((1981) 74 Cr App R 302); *R v Ward* ((1992) 96 Cr App R 1); and *R v Keane* ([1994] 1 WLR 746).

The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 established a general regime of disclosure by both prosecution and defence, replacing the common law rules as to disclosure in their entirety and being supplementary to the other statutory rules as to disclosure: see *Archbold Criminal Pleading Evidence & Practice* (1997 paragraph 12-45).

Although Mr Justice Brook's decision predated the Act, it was interesting to note the provisions of section 17(1) to (6) which dealt with the confidentiality of disclosed information.

His Lordship concluded that in the absence of a public interest immunity ruling to the contrary there never had been a fetter on the subsequent use of documents which had been used in the criminal process and the 1996 Act confirmed that.

Was it appropriate to apply an implied undertaking in criminal proceedings by analogy with the implied undertaking which existed in civil proceedings?

The plaintiffs submitted that the analogy between criminal and civil proceedings was unconvincing: the position of the prosecution in a criminal case was not comparable with that of a plaintiff or a defendant in civil proceedings.

They rejected the notion that the imposition of an implied undertaking was necessary on strong public policy grounds since otherwise prosecuting authorities would be deterred from strictly complying with their legal obligations of frank disclosure to the criminal defence solicitors.

The reasons for implying the undertaking in civil proceedings were not relevant in the criminal context, the plaintiffs submitted. If those rationales had no application, or rarely applied, to criminal proceedings, the court ought not to imply the undertaking in criminal proceedings.

The defendants submitted that it was an equitable principle of general application that where a person received documents from another, by means of compulsory disclosure in particular legal proceedings, he was under a legal obligation not to use them for any purpose other than the conduct of those proceedings in which they were disclosed, without the prior leave of the court.

They submitted that the reason for the implied undertaking in civil proceedings applied with even greater force to criminal cases to protect informants.

His Lordship could find no basis for an implied undertaking in criminal proceedings on the grounds of privacy and confidentiality. In the present case it was conceded that no confidentiality arose.

The 1996 Act provided some indication of the intention of the legislature on confidentiality of documents in the criminal law process. It established a general regime of disclosure by the Crown and the defence enhancing the common law position.

The effect of section 17 was to draw a distinction between used and unused material and to protect unused material by requiring it to be treated confidentially. Thus if a document was displayed in open court, or the information within it had been communicated to the public in open court, no such restriction applied, and the document might be used or disclosed by the accused without restriction.

Parliament evidently considered it inappropriate to attach confidentiality in respect of material that had been disclosed to the defence and would be, or had been, used in open court.

Consequently, his Lordship could discern no overriding public policy argument for the restriction of material disclosed during criminal proceedings and used in open court.

There was no justification for the present court to proceed on the basis that prior to the 1996 Act there was any restriction in relation to used material other than public interest immunity. Section 17 was not to be construed so as to prevent the use of documents or information in the public domain to found an action for libel.

In so concluding, his Lordship was not deflected by decisions or dicta based on Order 24, rule 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court which suggested that libel actions should be treated differently.

His Lordship preferred the reasoning of Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson in *Derby v Weldon (No 2)* that rule 14A had the effect that, save in exceptional circumstances, once a document had been used and referred to in open court it was a public document and no special undertaking continued.

Exceptional or special circumstances in the criminal context could exist but should be confined to matters of public interest immunity and absolute privilege.

The reasons of public policy, proper administration of civil justice and abuse of civil process had no relevance in the criminal sphere where the rules of disclosure were for different purposes and now had statutory force.

His Lordship accepted the defendants' submission that there was a public interest in protecting informants, but doubted that public policy recognised or required a protection which was as comprehensive as the defendants claimed.

There was no blanket protection for material disclosed in criminal proceedings.

There was no compelling reason for the implied undertaking on the ground that its absence would deter informants from coming forward. The honest had nothing to fear. The anonymity of those in peril could be protected by absolute privilege or public interest immunity.

It was in the interests of justice that the dishonest should be deterred from disseminating calumny and perverting the course of justice. Thus, in practice, there was only a small risk to informants and it was hardly a floodgates situation.

Moreover, as a matter of public policy a person who was the victim of malicious false statements to regulatory bodies who wished to put the record straight ought not to be met by blanket protection of the kind advocated by the defendants. Qualified privilege was sufficient protection leaving the victim plaintiff to prove malice.

Accordingly, it was not appropriate to imply an undertaking in criminal proceedings by analogy with the implied undertaking which existed in civil proceedings. If no implied undertaking existed it would not be an abuse of process to commence a libel action.

Lord Justice Schiemann agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Sheridans; Bircham & Co.

Judge's comment reduces sentence

Regina v Blaize

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Maurice Kay

[Judgment June 10]

Defendants ought to be sentenced for the offence of which they were convicted, not for the manner in which the defence was conducted. A plea of not guilty lost a defendant the benefit of a discount which would ordinarily be earned by a plea of guilty but did not run the risk of a sentence being increased. False accusations of racial prejudice could not serve to increase a sentence.

The Court of Appeal so held when reducing from 12 to six months the prison sentence passed on Debbie Blaize, aged 21, by Judge Hardy at Southwark Crown Court after her conviction of assault occasioning actual bodily harm to Major-General Gerard Wright, retired, in June 1996, whereby he suffered injury from a blow which smashed his spectacles and injured his left eye, from which he might have lost the sight but for specialist treatment and had spent some three days in an eye hospital. Her appeal against conviction was dismissed.

Mr Joel Bennathan, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr D. J. Zeitlin for the Crown only on the conviction appeal.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that their Lordships shared the judge's view that a custodial sentence was necessary.

As submitted by counsel, in the circumstances a 12-month sentence was excessive and one of six months would punish the appellant for the serious offence.

Counsel had raised a separate and discrete point on the judge's sentencing remarks. He had said:

"Before pronouncing sentence, there is one further comment I want to make, because what has happened in this case in your defence is the sort of thing that is happening increasingly in the experience of the courts when a defendant appears before the courts from an ethnic minority.

"You quite cynically and dishonestly in your defence decided to play the race card hoping, unsuccessfully as it turned out, to seek politically correct sympathy with the jury in an attempt to undermine the good name and credit of your victim, as I have said a distinguished retired soldier, by alleging that immediately prior to the assault he had subjected you to a sustained and serious period of racial abuse.

"I am quite satisfied from the evidence I have heard that those allegations were completely unfounded. I venture to say the jury found them unfounded as well, the jury containing as it does several members of the ethnic minority.

"I am satisfied also that it was unfounded because there were several witnesses who gave evidence in this case, independent and reliable people, as to what happened and if the General had uttered any of the phrases and sort of language that you indicated he did in your evidence, I am quite sure that at least some of them would have said so in court. They did not."

His Lordship said that it could not be too clearly stated that it was utterly wrong for anyone in any situation to discriminate on the ground of race. Members of ethnic minorities enjoyed the same rights and were entitled to the same respect and were entitled to the benefit of the same presumptions as anyone else.

Such discrimination, if it occurred, was particularly objectionable in a forensic setting, whether the discrimination was on the part of the judge, the jury or a witness or counsel.

It was also highly objectionable to make false accusations of racial prejudice or discrimination and particularly so in a forensic setting. There might be a temptation to make an accusation to discredit a police officer or some other witness to seek to discredit a trial judge or to arouse the sympathy of the jury, members of which might belong to the same ethnic minority as a defendant and be inherently inclined to sympathise with those members of that minority.

Here the judge had taken the view that the appellant had made false accusations of racial prejudice which it seemed the jury almost certainly rejected. The overwhelming balance of the evidence was that those remarks had never been made.

It was, however, fundamental, as counsel for the appellant had rightly urged, that defendants ought to be sentenced for the offence of which they were convicted, not for the manner in which a defence was conducted.

By contesting any charge a defendant lost the benefit of a discount which a plea of guilty would ordinarily earn but, by pleading not guilty a defendant did not run the risk of a sentence being increased. Similarly, false accusations of racial prejudice could not serve to increase a sentence.

Counsel had submitted that the impression must have been left in the present case that the sentence wa being increased for that reason. He submitted that it was objectionable for the judge to hold it against the present appellant what others might or might not have done in the conduct of their defences.

He suggested it gave rise to wholly unjustifiable and discreditable suggestions that black defendants were liable to lie and put them at a disadvantage in defending a charge or representation they wished to make.

It seemed to their Lordships, on reading the remarks, that the judge almost certainly did not intend to give the impression that he was increasing the sentence because of the conduct of the appellant and did not in truth do so. Nothing in the sentence itself suggested that he had deliberately inflated it.

Their Lordships were, however, mindful of the supreme importance of avoiding any possible suggestion in the minds of anybody that that was in truth what had occurred. Their Lordships would not wish the defendant to think that the judge had increased the sentence on that ground. The appellant was entitled to be assured that there was no ground whatever for the imposition of a sentence other than that commensurate with the offence.

A sentence of six months would be substituted.

Company name change order

Association of Certified Public Accountants of Britain v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Before Mr Justice Jacob

[Judgment May 21]

An application under section 32 of the Companies Act 1985 to set aside a direction made by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry that a company change its name must be heard de novo by the court on the evidence brought before it.

The applicant company was not required to prove that its name was not misleading and the court should decide whether the name was misleading at the date of the judgment, rather than that of the original order.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an application from the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Britain that a direction issued by the secretary of state on February 22, 1996 that the name by which it was registered should be changed because it gave so misleading an indication of the nature of its activities as to be likely to cause harm to the public.

Section 32 of the Companies Act 1985 provides: "(1) If in the secretary of state's opinion the name by which a company is registered gives so misleading an indication of the nature of its activities as to be likely to cause harm to the public, he may direct it to change its name...

"(3) The company may, within a period of three weeks from the date of the direction, apply to the court to set it aside; and the court may set the direction aside or confirm it..."

Mr Christopher Elliott for the association; Mr Jonathan Crow for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said section 32 had not previously been considered judicially. The application was not an appeal: there was no machinery for the court to examine the materials on which the secretary of state made his decision and no formal requirement on the secretary of state to give reasons. Nor was it some kind of judicial review.

It followed that the court must consider the matter de novo on the evidence brought before it, which might or might not be the same as the evidence before the secretary of state.

Both sides were at liberty to put in evidence dealing with matters which were not before the secretary of state when he made the direction. The court should form its own view as to whether or not the company's name offended under section 32.

The potentially damaging consequences of an enforced change of name should only be visited on the company if real cause was shown. Mere failure by the company to prove that its name was not misleading was not enough to give the court grounds to confirm the order.

The jurisdiction was not summary and the date by which the misleading nature of the name was to be judged was the date of judgment, not the date of the order. It would generally be enough for the court to take a broad brush approach to determining costs in cases where the name was misleading at the time of the order but not misleading by the date of judgment.

It was not enough to show that the name was misleading, a likelihood of harm must also be shown. In many cases the latter might follow from the former, but not necessarily: it was difficult to imagine harm if a company called Robin Jacob (Fishmongers) Ltd in fact carried on the business of bookbinding.

Anyone could set himself up in business and call himself an accountant. A variety of bodies or associations conferred the right on members to describe themselves by some title. Not all accountants were entitled to perform all accountancy tasks.

The secretary of state's case related to the use of "certified" in the association's name. It was said that the name connoted that the association maintained a system for ensuring a level of professional qualification, standing and competence on the part of its members, and an organisation that operated a genuine system of monitoring and self-regulation.

The association offered accountants who met its qualifying standards the right to designate their practice as "certified public accountants" and use the designatory letters FCPA and ACPA for fellows and associates. The secretary of state's case was that the standards were so low as to make the company's name misleading.

Applicants had to be over 21 and principals or partners for three years in a firm of practising public accountants. The association aimed to ensure that members had adequate insurance; a national vocational qualification at level 4 in accounting and a programme of continuing professional education and that their practices conformed to quality management standards.

Those aims had not been fully implemented. NVQ level 4 was not in the same class as the standards of chartered or certified accountants. There was no written syllabus for continuing education.

His Lordship concluded that the name was likely to mislead and do harm to the public, who would be likely to be willing to pay more for Irspenmembers' services if they thought them "certified".

Solicitors: Wolfson & Co, Old Trafford; Treasury Solicitor.

Council empowered to pay cost of holiday

Regina v North Yorkshire County Council, Ex parte Hargreaves

Before Mr Justice Latham

[Judgment May 16]

A local authority's duty to facilitate the taking of holidays by a person, under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, included a power to meet the basic cost of the holiday

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing an application by William Hargreaves for judicial review of a policy of North Yorkshire County Council, re-stated in June 1994, relating to its duties under section 2(1)(f) of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 272(1) of and Schedule 30 to the Local Government Act 1972, section 14(1) of and paragraph 12 of Schedule 2 to the Local Authority Social Service Act 1970, and section 66 of and paragraph 12 of Schedule 9 to the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

Miss Jennifer Richards for the applicant; Mr Roger McCarthy, QC, for the council.

MR JUSTICE LATHAM said that the council had adopted a policy in which the principle to be applied where a relevant need was established, under section 2(1)(f) of the 1970 Act, was that financial assistance would be provided in order to meet only "the extra costs of the holiday attributable to the individual's disability".

In practice that meant that the council would cover additional costs such as special transport or accommodation expenses for the disabled person, or the cost of a carer: it would not help with basic costs that persons who were not disabled would also have faced on the basis that the section did not empower it to cover those costs.

The applicant submitted that the obligation to "facilitate" did not oblige the council to provide the basic costs of a holiday, but gave it a discretion so to do, and by limiting its consideration to additional costs the council had unlawfully fettered its own discretion.

The council argued that it could not be obliged to provide the ordinary costs of a holiday which any person, disabled or not, would be expected to meet out of their own funds, and that section 2(1)(f) of the 1970 Act used the word "facilitating" and not "provision" as the other paragraphs of the subsection did.

In his Lordship's judgment, the applicant's submission was correct.

Section 2(1)(f) envisaged the obligation to facilitate being met by being "provided" under arrangements made by the council.

That implied that the basic cost could be met by the council.

Solicitors: Crombie Wilkinson & Oakley, York; Mr David J. Bramhall, Northallerton.

Power to restrain ballot breach

Spencer v Huggett and Another

Before Mr Justice Longmore

[Judgment April 18]

There was a strong prima facie case that the court had jurisdiction to grant an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, and accordingly the court had jurisdiction to entertain applications for interlocutory injunctions therefor.

Mr Justice Longmore so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for an interlocutory injunction by the plaintiff, Sir Derek Spencer, QC, a candidate in the 1997 General Election, to restrain a threatened breach of section 115(2)(b) of the 1983 Act by the defendants, Ms Claer Lloyd-Jones, the returning officer, and Richard John Huggett, a candidate in the same constituency as the plaintiff.

Mr Richard Price, QC, for the plaintiff; Mr Peter Havey, QC, for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LONGMORE said that the defendants had submitted that since the alleged breach constituted a crime, the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the application, since a civil court could not enforce the criminal law at the suit of this plaintiff, but only at the relation of the Attorney-General.

His Lordship said that the defendants had relied on the case of *Gouriet v Union of Post Office Workers* ([1978] AC 435) for that proposition. However, that case reserved the position where a private individual sustained injury as a result of a public wrong.

His Lordship said that there was a right recognised at common law and confirmed by articles 8A to 8C of the Treaty establishing the European Community 1957, as amended by Title II of the Treaty on European Union 1992. That right was that all persons had a right to stand at a parliamentary election, not tainted by corrupt practice. Those rights were in one sense public rights, but in his Lordship's view an individual candidate had a special right to that effect.

However, even if that were wrong, and the rights conferred by section 115(2)(b) were purely public, the plaintiffs might be able to show that they would suffer damage peculiar to themselves from any interference with the public right proved to be intended by the defendants.

Accordingly, in his Lordship's view the present case was not governed by *Gouriet*, but fell within the exceptions to the general rule there set out.

It followed that in his Lordship's opinion the court did have jurisdiction to entertain the applications and there was a strong prima facie case that the jurisdiction did exist.

Solicitors: Penningtons; Ms Claer Lloyd-Jones, Brighton.

VAT search warrant law is valid

Regina v Commissioners of Customs and Excise and Another, Ex parte X Ltd and Others

Paragraph 10 of Schedule 11 to the Value Added Tax Act 1994 was not unlawful under European Union law.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Brian Smedley) so held on May 9 when dismissing an application by X Ltd and others for judicial review of, inter alia, the legislation under which a search warrant had been issued against the applicants.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that the applicants had contended that since the Value Added Tax Act 1994 was implementing European legislation its lawfulness fell to be considered in the light of European law and that, accordingly, the Act was unlawful in that it provided insufficient safeguards against the power to issue search warrants

His Lordship said that the preamble to, and paragraph 8 of article 22 of the Sixth Directive (77/388/EC) (OJ 1977 L145/1) left individual member states free to choose the forms and methods to ensure the effectiveness of the directive.

Member states must have the widest margin of appreciation in deciding what means of investigating alleged evasion or fraud were appropriate in their own jurisdiction. Accordingly, his Lordship rejected the applicants' submission that Parliament was not entitled to pass into law the provisions of the paragraph in the form that it had done.

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هكذا من الاصل

■ FILM 1

The effervescent Whoopi Goldberg doesn't convince in the antique comic fantasy of *The Associate*

■ FILM 2

... and a parade of famous faces can't improve an ostentatious gangster parody, *Trigger Happy*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

... but *johns* survives its unpromising title to offer a warm portrait of male friendship

■ FILM 4

... and the crazy stunts in *Shadow Conspiracy* are fun, even if the terrible script isn't

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** on Whoopi Goldberg as a distaff Doubtfire on Wall Street in the disappointing *The Associate*

Interest rate goes down as well as up

Roll up! Roll up! This Sunday is National Cinema Day, when every seat at every cinema is yours for £1. When the event was first held last year, more than a million people joined the stampede. Some spent the entire day in the dark.

How appropriate it would be if this week's releases were big and bold, or small and beautiful, or otherwise worthy of the extra attention. But what do we find? **The Associate.** The first name to hit you on the posters is Whoopi Goldberg's although connoisseurs might be more intrigued by the small print's reference to the producer, Frederic Golchan. A former Wall Street broker Golchan has found a new lease of life repackaging popular French movies for Hollywood, whether audiences want them or not.

Still, Golchan at least allows buffs the chance to amuse themselves playing games. As we watch Goldberg as a Wall Street analyst denied a promotion, we can relish the thought of Michel Serrault in the original comedy, *L'Associé* (1979), and the finesse he might bring to the plot's central trick: the creation of an imaginary business partner, who takes the financial world by storm and remains invisible until pressure of events demands his impersonation.

Serrault's creation was an Englishman called Mr Davis. Goldberg's is called Robert S. Cutty. Forced to produce her globe-trotting wonder boy, Goldberg does the honours herself, kitted out with elaborate makeup, a silver pony tail, bass voice and the well-padded looks of Marlon Brando mixed with a hint of Ernie Wise. The film's characters take this creation as real; audiences will be much less indulgent.

Surface detail and smart New York locations provide some contemporary resonances. Like *The First Wives Club* this is a story of female empowerment and worms turning. A character such as Tim Daly's amoral snake provides room for digs at the male bastion of corporate life, while Goldberg's revenge finds a complement in the progress of Diane Wiest's secretary from mouse to lion.

But deep down this is an antique comic fantasy, with the dust still lying thick. Its history, indeed, stretches far beyond *L'Associé*. A Chilean humorist, Jenaro Prieto, thought of the story in the late 1920s, and a previous film version, *The Mysterious Mr Davis*, was made in England in 1936. Given careful handling, there is no reason why the subject should not amuse yet again: but the cast's best efforts are thrown away by a journeyman director (Donald Petrie) and a feeble script (Nick Thiel).

Nobody could accuse Larry Bishop of feeble scriptwriting. In **Trigger Happy**, which he also directs, he calls leading characters Mick, Vic and Nick. He strings together smart remarks and in-jokes as these hoodlums squabble, pull the trigger, and sing *My Way* in the turmoil following an underworld boss's release from a mental hospital.

The Associate
Warner West End
PG, 113 mins
Whoopi Goldberg takes on Wall Street

Trigger Happy
Warner West End
15, 93 mins
Nasty wannabe cult movie

johns
Metro, 18, 95 mins
Sympathetic drama about LA hustlers

Shadow Conspiracy
Warner West End
15, 102 mins
Enjoyably bad political thriller

The Square Circle
Curzon West End
15, 103 mins
Tame curiosity from India

As director, too, Bishop wants to be noticed. Eager to manufacture a cult movie, he adopts a style of parody portentousness, placing the camera askew in grandiose nightclub settings, moving in tight for delirious close-ups. Nothing here is meant for real: everything is placed between cinema's equivalent of inverted commas.

This is unattractive. Bishop knew about self-advertisement from his father's knee: he is the son of TV comedian Joey Bishop, one of the Rat Pack who cavorted on and off the screen to no one's amusement but their own. The soundtrack pays them homage: Sinatra sings, Dean Martin sings, Sammy Davis Jr sings.

Bishop's cast is as star-studded as any Pack entertainment. Richard Dreyfuss is the unstable Vic. Henchmen include Gabriel Byrne and Jeff Goldblum. Decorations and hip cameos range from Ellen Barkin to Paul Anka and Richard Pryor (in a rare appearance since the onset of multiple sclerosis). The parade of talent, however, only makes this ugly and ostentatious movie seem even worse.

From Mick, Vic and Nick, we pass to a film where half the characters are called John. The film itself opts for the plural and the lower case: **johns**. Things don't look good for Scott Silver's first feature.

But bear with the director's pretentions. There is no artifice in his visual approach as he follows his fictional male hustlers up and down Los Angeles's Santa Monica Boulevard one Christmas Eve. The older one, John, desperately seeks ways to replace the money tucked inside his stolen sneakers. There's a drug dealer to pay off and a birthday wish — one night's stay in the Park Plaza Hotel — to realise. The younger one, Donner, has less material needs: love, companionship.

Silver prepared for his project by walking the Boulevard, hearing hustlers' stories at $20 a time. Not that *johns* paints a particularly realistic picture. Drug use is downpedalled, while the appearances of the character called Homeless John smack far more of scriptwriting than life. But Silver's film is valuable for its touching portrayal of male friendship and the urge to survive. The actors, too, make the best of things. Sometimes awkward in adult roles, Lukas Haas brings a sweet naivety to the role of Donner, while David Arquette's John is fresh and forceful.

No one could apply those two adjectives to Charlie Sheen, although **Shadow Conspiracy**, an almost enjoyably bad thriller, assumes he has charisma in spades. In scene upon scene Sheen's square, podgy face struggles to reflect emotion as he dodges bullets, scrambles around a White House lift shaft, and hurls his mobile phone in the canal ("They're monitoring my calls!" he shouts, aggrieved). But the face only registers a perfunctory grimace, or the ghost of a cocky grin.

So why is an automaton in a white trenchcoat shooting at Sheen, Special Adviser to the President? Because Sheen has been tipped off about a conspiracy. The President is pro-people, anti vested interests, and there is a move to terminate him. History tells us that shooting an American President is easy work, comparatively, but George P. Cosmatos's film goes through such contortions in the name of high drama that common sense is defied. Even at £1 a ticket, there are better things to do with your time.

You could see the revival of *Mamma Roma*, Pasolini's second feature of 1962, in which Anna Magnani's star power is harnessed, awkwardly but compellingly, to a neo-realist story of delinquency and social pretentions. Or a search for novelty may take you to **The Square Circle**, a commercial Indian movie, in Hindi. Trimmed by half an hour to suit western tastes, it still feels leisurely, with broad playing, gauche direction, and a slender plot diversified by musical numbers.

But what brings Amol Palekar's film to London is not its style but its subject: cross-dressing, and gender confusion. A young village girl (Sonali Kulharni) is abducted, then raped. Her reluctant saviour is a transvestite (Nirmal Pandey), trained in childhood as a female performer. To ease her journey back home, the transvestite dresses the girl as a man: moustache, short hair, trousers.

Mainstream Indian audiences might be provoked by the dainty questions posed about sexual identities and the relation between gender and social roles. Here, no stir seems likely: just mild interest, and a few yawns.

Whoopi Goldberg as the hard-done-by Wall Street analyst out for revenge in *The Associate*, a good idea spoilt by poor direction and a bad script

'Whoopi Brando'

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases . . .

☐ ***THE ASSOCIATE***

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: Cheap and formulaic.

Tim Thornton, 21: A dull, pathetic attempt at a *Jerry Maguire* set on Wall Street.

Damian Samuels, 20: Whoopi Goldberg dons her Mrs Doubtfire garb, resulting in her looking like Marlon Brando in this tripe movie.

Sarah Crook, 18: A witty comedy with an important message about women in the workplace.

☐ ***SHADOW CONSPIRACY***

Leslie: An action movie like this needs an A-list actor like Tom Cruise, not C-list Charlie Sheen.

Tim: Sheen is better off sticking to spoof films — although

SNAP VERDICT

this is pretty close to being one.

Damian: An obvious and clichéd political thriller.

Sarah: Enjoyable thriller: Sheen is gorgeous.

☐ ***TRIGGER HAPPY***

Leslie: I think this was supposed to be a comedy.

Tim: A super soundtrack and fantastic settings make up a strange and wonderful film.

Damian: Very odd.

Sarah: Stylish gangster comedy full of blood, music, guns and star cameos.

Explorers of the schnorrer

Lost delights and an irresistible brand of humour are showcased at the London Jewish Film Festival

Jew or gentile, there comes a time in every person's life when you need to know what "schnorrer" means. The time can be clocked precisely: it is the moment you first watch *Animal Crackers*. Groucho Marx, alias Captain Jeffrey T. Spaulding, famous African explorer, is being fêted in song at a Long Island mansion. "Did someone call me schnorrer?" he pipes up. He's been rumbled: he's an impudent beggar, a scrounger *deluxe*. Laughter among the initiates: dumb looks among the greenhorns.

Anyone in love with American comedy, from the Marx Brothers to Woody Allen, picks up Jewish humour, Jewish inflections and Yiddish terms: they come with the territory. Yet until recently some of the best Jewish comedy has remained off-limits and largely unseen, at least in Britain. The twelfth London Jewish Film Festival, which opens today, offers a chance to uncover lost delights.

Take Max Davidson, a character actor born in Berlin in 1875, who crowned a motley silent film career in the United States with a run of some 20 two-reel comedies made for Hal Roach, the man who paired Laurel with Hardy. Davidson has Jewish stereotype written all over him: thick, bushy hair; furrowed brow; a hand always stroking his beard, or clasped to his cheekbone in horror and dismay — a gesture that shouts "Oy veh!" Surely this man belongs with coon songs and Amos 'n' Andy in the politically incorrect past?

Not so. As international audiences have recently found, and as London will discover on June 22, Davidson's films are far too funny and humane to cause even the thin-skinned offence. The gags are inventive, the plots exuberant, and the facial pantomime is a joy. Davidson is no action comic: the laughs come from his reaction to the mess around him as family and fortune undermine his craving for respectability.

His son, played by freckle-faced wonder Spec O'Donnell, is a particular burden. In *Don't Tell Everything*, O'Donnell is hidden away in drag to avoid putting off widower Davidson's new bride. In *Pass the Gravy*, O'Donnell steals the neighbour's prize chicken and watches in agony as the corpse is served up, First Prize leg-tag and all, to its owner at dinner. These films, carefully paced and supervised by Leo McCarey, need live audiences to work their full magic. Better prints than the grey 16mm copies currently available would also help..

Davidson died forgotten in 1950, after a dwindling career. Ernst Lubitsch, master director of continental comedy, is a far more familiar figure, though not as an actor. We think of him as the Hollywood master behind *Ninotchka* and a glittering galaxy of Paramount comedies. On June 17 the festival reminds us of his origins, as he twinkles on-screen under his own direction in *Shoe Salon Pinkus* and *Meyer from Berlin*, German films recently restored.

With Lubitsch, the eyes have it. In *Shoe Salon Pinkus*, from 1916, he sells shoes and flirts. In *Meyer from Berlin*, made two years later, he climbs the Alps and flirts, bony legs resplendent in lederhosen. Critics then and since balked at the energy Lubitsch lavished on his eager characters, always grasping for success. "His performances are broad, abrasive and, by today's standards, virtually anti-Semitic," the American critic Andrew Sarris once wrote. But this is a harsh, imperious judgment: it is hard to resist the gaiety and conspiratorial flourish of Lubitsch's imps.

The more intrepid festival-goer may care to sample a programme called *Shtick, Shmaltz and Shtereotypes* (June 16 and 22), which rounds up Hollywood comic shorts from 1913 to the early 1940s. Laughing at Benny Rubin does not come easy: groaning does. Danny Kaye, also featured, is another problem area. But Willie Howard, long partnered in revue and vaudeville with his brother Eugene, is a lost treasure: outrageously theatrical, accent verging on the incomprehensible, but sweetly innocent and droll.

Whether the material is historical or hysterical, the festival's comedy programmes are most welcome, especially in light of tonight's opening film. This is *The Truce*, from the veteran Italian director Francesco Rosi, based on Primo Levi's account of his journey to freedom from Auschwitz. It is worthy, if somewhat dull.

GEOFF BROWN

● *The London Jewish Film Festival is at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London (0171-928 3232) until June 22*

Ernst Lubitsch, silent film star turned respected director, and deserving of a special place in the Jewish Film Festival

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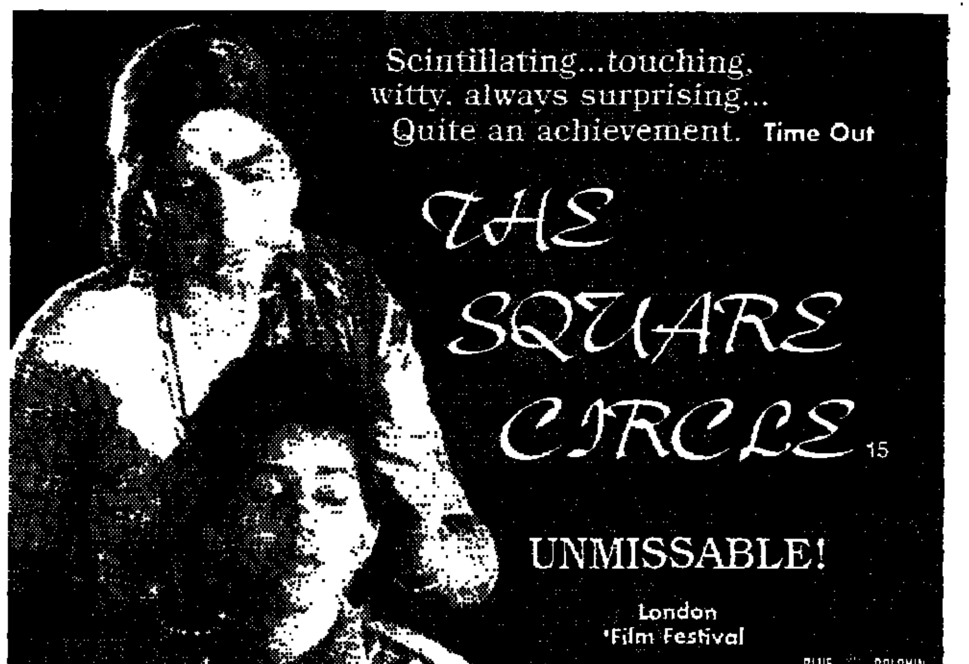
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THE SQUARE CIRCLE 15

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London Film Festival

BLUE DOLPHIN

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■ CHOICE 1

Judith Weir's Piano Concerto receives its world premiere at Spitalfields

VENUE: Tonight at Christ Church, Commercial Street

■ CHOICE 2

Tricky Shakespeare: Nigel Planer opens in *All's Well That Ends Well*

VENUE: Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, tonight

THE TIMES ARTS

■ NEW VIDEOS

Hawn, Keaton and Midler go for revenge against errant husbands in *The First Wives Club*

■ NEW CDS

Shostakovich plays Shostakovich: the piano Preludes and Fugues in a historic recording

LONDON

ART AND ANTIQUES The **Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair**, which this year celebrates 60 years of royal patronage, opens today **Grosvenor House** (Great Room), Park Lane, W1 (0171-495 8743) Today, 11am-5pm. Then Mon-Fri, 11am-8pm; Sat and Sun, 11am-6pm. Until June 21

SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL This evening's concert by the **BT Scottish Ensemble** includes the world premiere of Judith Weir's Piano Concerto, the latest in a series of works Weir has written for the pianist William Howard over the past 15 years. Works by Mozart, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn complete the programme
Christ Church, Commercial Street, E1 (0171-377 1362) Tonight 7.30pm.

STUNDE NULL Lift brings Christoph Marthaler's fascinating, often hilarious production from Deutsches Schauspielhaus of Hamburg, showing seven West German politicians being taught by Miss Stunde Null ("Zero Hour") how to shake hands, cut red ribbons and tread carefully round the Nazi years. English surtitles
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight-Sun, 7.45pm

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL Frances Cuka plays the Countess and Nigel Planer is Parolles in Helena Kaut-Howson's production of a sometimes tricky Shakespeare.
Open Air, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431) Opens tonight, 8pm, in rep with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, Thurs (from June 19) and Sat, 2.30pm

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ELSEWHERE

LEEDS: Tonight and tomorrow, Robert Delamere directs the National Theatre of Craiova in **Pinocchio in Venice**, adapted from Robert Coover's novel by Edward Carey. On Saturday, Silviu Purcarete directs the company in his visually stunning production of Shakespeare's **Titus Andronicus**. Both shows are performed in Romanian with English surtitles
West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Quarry, Hill Mount, (0113-244 2111) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 2pm, and Sat, 3pm ♿

MANCHESTER Free adaptation by Tony Kushner of Corneille's **The Illusion**, where an old lawyer (Trevor Baxter) asks a magician (Richard Moore) for news of his missing son and is led into a world of theatrical mystery
Royal Exchange, Upper Campfield Street (0161-833 9833) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until July 5

SALISBURY: Robin Herford directs Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, **Time and Time Again**, which examines the problems of love and life in suburbia.
Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse Lane (01722 320333) Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Until July 5. ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Boundary: Sylvia Melland (0171-624 1126) **Curwen**: Greenwich Printmakers (0171-636 1459) **Eskenazi**: Chinese Buddhist Sculpture (0171-493 5464) **Grosvenor**: Kerry Hallam: Far Horizons Tour (0171-629 0891) . **Leighton House**: Recent Works: Suad Al-Attar (0171-602 3316) **Llewellyn Alexander**: Not the Royal Academy (0171-620 1322) **National Portrait**: Pursuit of Beauty: Five Centuries of Body Adornment in Britain (0171-306 0055) . **The Photographers' Gallery**: Jack English: Nil By Mouth (0171-831 1772) **Talisman Fine Art**: "The Deluge": Works in Gold Leaf by Natalie Sirett (0171-794 4266) **Whitechapel**: Cathy de Monchaux (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE** The Olivier is transformed into a "theatre in the round" for Simon McBurney's production of Brecht's last important work. Juliet Stevenson plays Grusha, with McBurney as Azdak.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Sat, Mon 7.15pm, mat Sat 2pm. Final performances Wed (June 18), 2pm and 7.15pm. In rep

☐ **GHOSTS** Mike Alfreds brings his award-winning Method & Madness Co to London for this year's ensemble season. Ibsen's one-time shocker plays in repertoire with *The Winter's Tale*
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. In rep. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat (June 21, 28, July 5), 2.30pm. Until July 5

☐ **LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN**: Braham Murray's production of Wilde. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past, Rebecca Johnson the virtuous wife without a mother
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until June 28.

☐ **LOVE ME SLENDER** Jenny Funnell plays the organiser at the Tunbridge Wells "Slim for Life" dieting club in Vanessa Brooks's comedy, directed by Auriol Smith.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs (July 3 and 10), 2.30pm; Sat (from June 14), 4pm

☐ **MASTER CLASS**: Patti LuPone recreates her Broadway starring role as Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's Tony-winning play, where the great diva puts aspiring opera singers through their paces. Leonard Foglia directs
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

■ **THINGS FALL APART** Chinua Achebe's fine novel, set in Nigeria during colonial times, powerfully adapted by Biyi Bandele. Co-production by Lift and West Yorkshire Playhouse
Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (Ambassadors), West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until June 21

◪ **TOM AND CLEM** Alec McCowen and Michael Gambon as sober Attlee and flamboyant Driberg, sorting out the world at Potsdam
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6007) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ☐ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) ◪ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . ◪ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

ALIVE AND KICKING (15) Lively Aids drama, with Jason Flemyng and Antony Sher. Written by Martin Sherman.
ABCs: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **CON AIR** (15) Nasty prisoners hijack their plane. Ferocious rollercoaster ride, with Nicolas Cage
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

CRASH (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversity from J.G. Ballard's novel
ABCs: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

DRIFTING CLOUDS (PG) A married couple fight Finland's recession. Tender minimalist drama from Aki Kaurismäki
Everyman (0171-435 1525) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **THE FIFTH ELEMENT** (PG) Flabby sci-fi epic from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis as the taxi-driver who might save the world
Empire (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

THE INFORMER (PG) John Ford's 1935 classic, with Victor McLaglen as the hard-drinking informer during the 1922 Irish Rebellion
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721)

MEN, WOMEN: A USER'S MANUAL (12) Flashy rigmarole from Claude Lelouch, with Fabrice Luchini and Bernard Tapie
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720)

CURRENT

◆ **LIAR LIAR** (12) Lawyer Jim Carrey tells the truth for 24 hours. Attractive comedy, soft round the edges
Empire (0990-888 990) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **TURBULENCE** (18): Serial killer (Ray Liotta) hijacks a 747. Rip-roaring festival of clichés. With Lauren Holly. Director, Robert Butler
Virgin Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Getting in a hit for the missus

NEW ON VIDEO

Women scorned: Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn and Bette Midler seek vengeance in The First Wives Club

■ **THE FIRST WIVES CLUB**
CIC, PG, 1996

DIANE KEATON, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn attack the script with hammer and tongs in this tale of three wives out to avenge the husbands they nurtured, only to be dumped for younger models. Director Hugh Wilson wisely lets his stars work what magic they can as they fret, scheme, break and enter, and gloat, though his relaxed approach does the film no favours when the comedy tips over into outright silliness. Available to rent.

■ **SOME MOTHER'S SON**
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1996

A FICTIONAL story inspired by the Maze Prison hunger strike of 1981, with Helen Mirren as a pacifist school teacher whose life is changed when her son is arrested after a shoot-out with the British Army. She condemns all violence and IRA tactics: that point made, the film safely proceeds to champion the hunger strikers, led by Bobby Sands, and to chart the growing friendship with a fiercely Republican mother (Fionnula Flanagan). Terry George directs with a powerful hand. Available to rent.

■ **TWO DEATHS**
Tartan, 18, 1995

OPPRESSIVE chamber piece from Nicolas Roeg, set in Bucharest as the Ceausescu government falls. Though based on a novel, the film feels more like an old-style television play as characters thrash out their troubles in words, not deeds. Michael Gambon is an imperious physician hosting a reunion of old friends, revelling in his cruelties as the banquet progresses from oysters to liqueurs. Roeg plays games with time and memory, and relishes the human personality's dark side, but to little positive effect.

■ **A GOOFY MOVIE**
Buena Vista, U, 1995

MODEST Disney cartoon feature aimed at small fry, the first to star the daffy dog from the vintage short cartoons. Not that the innocent charm remains: this Goofy's a father, wrestling with the 1990s attitudes of his adolescent son on a summer vacation. Simple animation; a few songs. No great shakes, but serviceable.

■ **MADAGASCAR SKIN**
Manga, 15, 1996

CHRIS NEWBY is a master designer of curious and lyrical images. But dramatic momentum is not in his line, least of all in this whimsical titbit about two characters who meet on a deserted beach. John Hannah, haunted and tentative, has a facial birthmark shaped like Madagascar. Brety Bernard Hill is discovered buried up to his neck in sand. Moves are made towards a gay relationship, but instead of nurturing his characters, Newby lets them fend for themselves among cryptic imagery. Infuriating.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Verdi's first opera; Shostakovich shows how to play Shostakovich

OPERA

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■ **VERDI**
Oberto
Guleghina/Urmana/Neill/Ramey/Academy of St Martin in the Fields/Marriner
Philips 454 472-2 (2 CDs)★★
£29.99

VERDI'S first opera has emerged briefly from obscurity over the past week with a pair of concert performances, courtesy of the Royal Opera, and the simultaneous arrival of this Philips set.

Stuart Neill as the feckless seducer, Riccardo, is the only shared element. He cannot eclipse the memory of Bergonzi on the rival recording on Orfeo. But his tenor suits the part very nicely. Samuel Ramey was to have taken the title role at the Garden before ill health ruled him out. His proud performance here shows just what the concert audiences missed.

Maria Guleghina has a certain amount of vibrato in her soprano as Leonora, the woman whom Riccardo wronged, now hell-bent on vengeance. An imperious performance is needed and Guleghina provides just that. When Leonora goes off to a nunnery, there is every indication that she will quickly end up as Mother Superior. Violeta Urmana displays a plushy mezzo as Cuniza, who gradually realises that Riccardo is a rat. She benefits greatly from the inclusion, as an appendix, of the numbers Verdi wrote in for the *Oberto* revival. Smooth and lively backing from Marriner and his Academy players making a rare excursion into Verdi.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ **SHOSTAKOVICH**
Preludes and Fugues op 87
Dmitri Shostakovich
Revelation RV 70001★★★
£10.49

IN 1950 Shostakovich visited Leipzig to honour the bicentenary of the death of Bach and to serve on the jury of a competition won that year by the 26-year-old Tatiana Nikolayeva. Her playing inspired the composer to write his own *24 Preludes and Fugues*, and his own performances of the works were recorded in February 1952 before their public premiere by Nikolayeva in December that year.

Various record companies have issued these invaluable archive recordings, but this is the first collation from the different sources, and it is made by a company set up to release 70 years' worth of repressed recordings from the Soviet years made by masters such as Rozhdestvensky, Oistrakh, Rostropovich and Gilels. This disc is certainly one of the most revelatory in the extensive output of *The Classsical Russia Revelation*.

A clear, noiseless transfer reveals the directness and simplicity of the first Prelude, the luminosity of Shostakovich's rapid figuration in No 2 in A minor, with its relentless Fugue which lives in a single, constant plane of timbre. Here, too, is a palpable sense of struggle, built almost imperceptibly through the harmonic wanderings of the E minor work, and the extraordinary power of No 14 in E flat, with its thrumming drone bass. The rest of the 17 Preludes and Fugues recorded by Shostakovich follow suit.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

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★★ *Worth considering*
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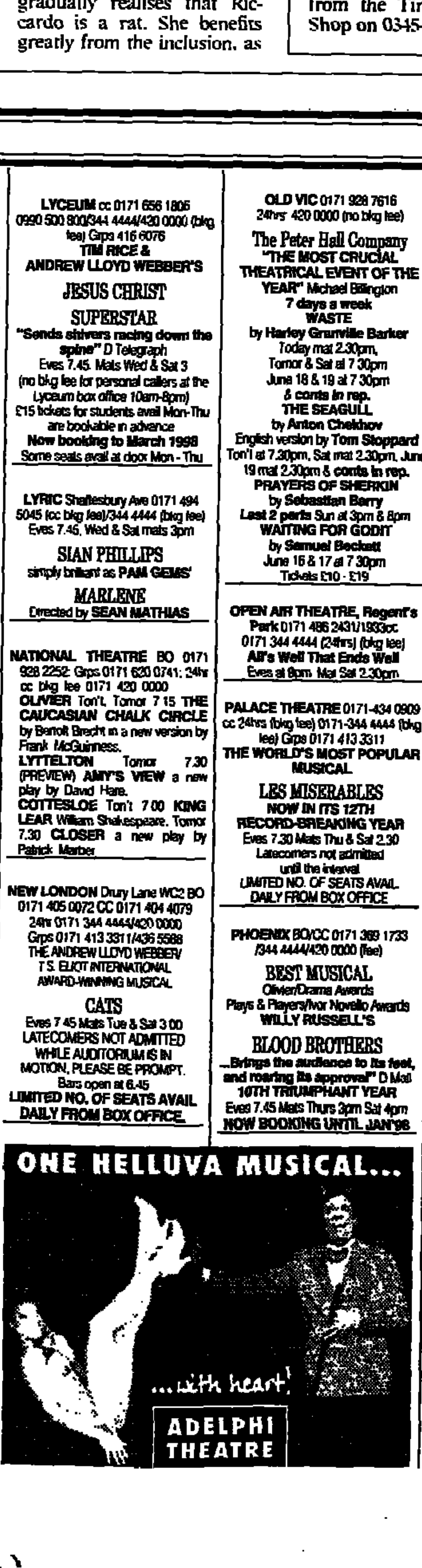

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■ THEATRE 1

A hard-working cast misses the essence of *The Winter's Tale* in Mike Alfreds's staging

■ THEATRE 2

... while the preposterous *Always* presents an all-singing Edward and Mrs Simpson

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 3

London's LIFT festival is about to enjoy a burst of surreal political satire from the Germans

■ OPERA

Rigoletto returns to Covent Garden in a poor staging but with musical values resplendent

THEATRE: Minimal cast means maximum confusion of the Bard; twittering royal lovebirds; and a LIFT from Canada

Doubles double toil and trouble

The Winter's Tale
Lyric, Hammersmith

I touring theatre, necessity is i mother of inventive doubling — mother on this occasion hg Mike Alfreds, the theatre his Mhod & Madness, and the doubli such as to allow a company of eigho present a play that lists 15 name characters plus sundry Lords, Ladies Officers of the Court, Shepherds, epherdesses, the allegorical figure Time turning the clock forwaro years, and a bear.

The gzly lumbers past so quickly that oi of my colleagues, jotting down ate at the time, quite missed its passe. Possibly the beast is in a hurry, ause the moment it leaves the stag he actor must whip off the bearskidon a string beard or pair of shaggroos, and reappear as Old Shephe or Young Clown reporting on whate have just witnessed.

Backsge must be a maelstrom. For instce, Chris Crooks plays four significa roles: as the Gaoler he wears bk and keeps to the rear of the stag as Dion returning from Apollo's acle he puts on a quaint pointy b'd: for good old Camillo, loyal couer to a brace of kings, he relies onis own white hair and beardlesheeks, and for the dippy Clown he bjects his limbs to a non-stop St V's Dance. At the sheep-shearing ne both Camillo and the Clown arn stage at the same time, and core of the crowd — inevitably low in uper — keep disappearing for a quckostume change.

This los not necessarily lead to poor nd stressful acting, and Crooks tunderstruck dismay as Camil lerning that his sovereign believ hisqueen to be an adulteress. ges ne early section of the dram a vauable point of balance, the an-irthe-palace's sober respon to ne cataract of jealousy hurtling across his familiar world.

But the unexpected reappearance of faces in new beards and characters — Richard Atlee's Polixenes recognisable as various underlings, all three women playing 1st, 2nd and 3rd Gentlemen — damages the poetic evolution of the play. Time's Chorus is a case in point. A learned article in the programme draws our attention to its dramatic function, but what we are given is a speech broken between the eight members of the company bunched together and bearing scythe, hourglass, skull, outspread wings and suchlike items, while Big Ben booms in the distance. Under such a welter of designed and directed significance, how does one pay attention to what is being said?

Amid all this, Alfreds comes up with occasional neat ideas. It is perceptive to introduce an echo of his father's jealousy in the lack of enthusiasm shown by young Mamilius (Fergus O'Donnell) for the queen's new baby. O'Donnell also plays a Prince Florizel understandably smitten with love for Penny Layden's delicately sturdy Perdita. But when Raad Rawi's Leontes touches the hand of what he supposes to be his wife's statue, while we may believe his cry, "Oh, she's warm!" comes from the heart, the grouping around him, the pace and responses, are just so very ordinary.

The production plays in repertoire with Ibsen's *Ghosts*, where nobody doubles anybody, and I look forward to a more inspiring evening.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DONALD COOPER

Penny Layden provides "a delicately sturdy" Perdita for Method & Madness's *The Winter's Tale*

Wallis and Mr Dopey

Always
Victoria Palace

The tile puts you in mind of bottle of perfume or boxes of hocs alleged to ensure that mut doting lasts until mutual dota. The subtitle, "the ultimate lovebry", adds the suggestion that only Juliet had awoken earlier in her mb, or Romeo arrived a bit late would the musical's hero and here have faced serious competition learly, the authors of *Always*, Wilm May and Jason Sprague, hav high opinion of the affection tha burgeoned between Edward VII nd Mrs Simpson.

B do their music, book and lyrics perde us to agree? Not really. Tru Clive Carter's Edward keeps tell Jan Hartley's Wallis that he wa to take her to a place called Alws, "where we could love eternal and he could "hold you there to me". True, they both sing that "hearts have their reasons, they fall in love, they hold their secrets, like stars above". But if such assertions were definitive proof of deep devotion, we could all throw away our copies of Andrew Marvell and John Donne, and rely on the mottos inside Christmas crackers to rule our lives.

The authors help their thesis by ensuring that, apart from an awkward little prologue set after Edward's funeral in 1972, the action stretches from 1931 to 1937 only. This means they do not need to deal with such embarrassments as his admiration for Hitler or, for that matter, the inevitable ups and downs of love, marriage and exile. He is an awfully decent bloke who wants to help the miners and marry the woman he fancies, and, thanks largely to Tories who don't like his politics, finds he cannot do both. So the evening ends with him abdicating, proposing to his pleasant flapper, and intoning a reprise of *Always* with a lily in his hand: and we are left to assume that he continues to clutch the flower and sing the song for the next 40 years.

It is not exactly searching stuff, even by the standard of sentimental musicals with tunes as bland as these. Baldwin, Queen Mary, Wallis's Aunt Bessie and others wander in and out without making much impact on the heart and mind. There is some cursory dancing in a Paris nightclub and at Sybil Colefax's "party of the year". Mountbatten sympathises with Edward about love: "I've seen it happen to others, that thunderbolt". Poor Ernest Simpson sings that the American press shows pictures of his wife and "this kind of stress I don't need in my life".

Edward asserts that he is "a man, not a tailor's dummy" but, since Carter spends much of the evening on the cusp between the two, it is difficult fully to believe him.

Hartley fares better both as an actress and a vocalist: but then it is Carter, not she, who has to say and sing most of the dopiest things. Try looking regal, charismatic and very, very nice while warbling lines like "love has invited us to a party for two, you and me the only guests, no one else in view". I can't do it, you can't do it, and I bet that from that day to this nobody in Buckingham Palace has ever done it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in some editions of* The Times *yesterday*

Plays sans frontières

Jeremy Kingston on surreal moments at a Montreal festival

Ambling down the busy boulevards of Montreal, I discovered the word *strip-teaseuses*, a French noun you might not have thought existed, and perhaps in France it doesn't. Striptease can be dramatic in any language, but I was in Canada to visit a different branch of theatre, the Festival de Théâtre des Amériques. This is a biennial gathering that when it began, in 1985, concentrated on celebrating the new productions of the New World, but has since extended to include the other four continents.

Nowadays, if a company comes up with a production deemed to have international appeal, it can go circling the world's network of festivals for months. Years, even, like the circus cum happening cum rock concert of Argentina's *Periodo villa villa*, first performed in 1995. Both this and William Yang's autobiographical monologue and slide-show, *The North*, are showing in London next week as part of LIFT.

> ❛ The actors can whip the mood from clowning to dismay ❜

As is the Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg production of *Stunde Null* (Zero Hour), a bracingly critical look at German politicians that opened the Montreal Festival and comes into London tonight.

Christoph Marthaler, the Swiss-born director of this production, has said that critics should pay less attention to a director's contribution and instead consider the work done collectively by the ensemble. Certainly the teamwork displayed by his nine actors is exceptionally crisp and coordinated. Their postures, gestures and movement can whip the mood swiftly from desperately funny clowning to head-shaking dismay. But it is Marthaler's own vision that presides over the evening, so that anyone fortunate enough to have seen his prizewinning *Murx* at LIFT two years ago, desolate and hilarious, will recognise his style.

Stunde Null was Marthaler's answer to a request by the German political authorities to create a work commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Seven grey-suited politicians have come to some sort of work camp to learn how to cut ribbons, smile to the camera while shaking hands and, most important, make speeches that sound tremendous and commit them to nothing.

Essentially elderly babies, they are supervised by a severe Fräulein whose lectures are so stupefyingly boring that one after another they fall sideways off their chairs. As in *Murx* a harsh Beckett-like bell punctuates their lessons, and pipework visible above the shining wood panels suggests that they could be in a bunker deep underground. They are certainly profoundly out of touch with the people to whom their speeches will be addressed, and which they rehearse, all together, in a cacophony of gobbledegook.

These speeches have been concocted by Marthaler and Stefanie Carp from actual speeches delivered by Adenauer et al, full of empty urgency, rhetorical appeals to youth and nervous evasions. One speaker can never bring himself to voice the word "war" — and I am given to understand that one real-life politician actually used to talk of *friedloskeit* or "peacelessness". The presence of an actor bearing a more than passing resemblance to Chancellor Kohl hoists the production onto an impressive level of surrealism.

The surreal turned out to be a form embraced by several Quebec-based companies. In Théâtre Ubu's *Les trois derniers jours de Fernando Pessoa*, laudanum-induced doppelgängers appeared at the dying man's bedside, unnaturally tall or dwarfish and made of painted cardboard. Movement was minimal. I found it hard going.

But festivals are like that, a cascade of events hurtling past. With the Marquis de Sade, perhaps, offering croissants to his audience at a 7.30am breakfast show. Or an Italian *Oresteia* played by naked clowns. I wonder what word the Italians use for striptease.

● Stunde Null *is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-312 1995) from tonight to Sunday*

CONCERTS: Elegant COE; and a mixed Philharmonia

Serenade overdose

TH Chamber Orchestra of Eupe chose an unusual form for its only London cont this season: song that was by-product of opera, flan by one serenade cut dow o symphonic size, and anor which aspires towar symphonic stature. Despite the solid musical rewas of this Barbican concert, structure and balance neve elt right.

Fi came Mozart's *Haffr Symphony*, which the comser trimmed into conventl al shape from an original k-movement serenade. The OE exactly sensed the scale f the operation, with playe of such immaculate precin and elegance of ensem, such acutely perceptive dail that it would be no discrit to Bernard Haitink to sest that a conductor seem almost superfluous. Almost, but not quite: Haitink would give the extra lift to a phrase, point a flash of colour in a modulation, guide the breathing of the strings.

Haitink's supportive understanding of the human voice came into its own in Wagner's *Wesendonck-Lieder*. This was a platform for the young American mezzo-soprano Michelle DeYoung, who will make her Proms debut this summer, and who will eventually sing Fricka for Haitink with the Royal Opera. She is statuesque of physique, leonine of mane, and has a voice strong enough to roar with the "wheel of time" in *Stehe still!*

Yet DeYoung can also be fined down to cling, tendril-like, to the hushed woodwind lines of *Im Treibhaus*, which foreshadows the final act of *Tristan*. DeYoung is still far from the total Wagnerian: musical and verbal language is not yet firmly enough knitted to be interestingly nuanced, and her almost palpable tension on stage perhaps indicates her awareness of this.

Finally, after the interval, Brahms's long, long Sinfonie-Serenade No 1 in D was made to seem marginally shorter than usual thanks to Haitink's sensitively judged tempos and the superlative wind and brass solos of an orchestra whose consistently fine playing we now hear all too seldom in England.

HILARY FINCH

Off with a bang

WHE you have a programe including masterpiece such as Tchaikovsky's Violir Concerto and Brahms's Sympony No 4, you do not expe the best performance to be of he overture — on this occasn, that to Glinka's opera *uslan and Ludmilla*. That, owever, was the case in the econd of Mikhail Pletne's three concerts with the **Pilharmonia** at the Festival Hll on Sunday night.

Glika's rollicking overture, to be ure, requires dazzling finger ork from the strings, absolte precision of ensemble, ad some nifty interweaving beween the departments. All of his was brought off in exemp ary fashion by the Philha monia and Pletnev.

Sadl, nothing that followed vas qite on this level. The oloist in the Tchaikovsky was 17-year-old David Garrett, a German violinist who is now on his third disc for Deutsche Grammophon, but without the excessive hype that accompanies most teenage virtuosi these days. Garrett has a good, solid technique, but one could not honestly say that his execution was exceptional by today's standards.

What character there was in the performance came largely from Pletnev, but even this was disappointing: the local colour one might have hoped he would bring to bear — in the melancholy folk song of the Canzonetta or the wild Cossack dancing of the finale — was painted in wan tones.

Similarly understated was Pletnev's reading of the Brahms. Among its strengths were the nicely pointed phrases of the first movement, and its unhurried, ambulatory flow. But one missed the shadows cast across the face of the music or any real characterisation of the various thematic ideas.

Amends were made in the Scherzo, whose glittering virtuosity recalled the orchestra's form in the Glinka overture. The tight formal structure of the passacaglia finale also benefited from Pletnev's approach, and the closing pages at last revealed a strength of purpose.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Cad to stir the blood

OPERA

Rigoletto
Covent Garden

ONE of the side-benefits of the Royal Opera's Verdi Festival should have been a new production of *Rigoletto*, but no such luck — we are stuck with the dim Nuria Espert version for a little longer. At least the revival director, Jeremy Sutcliffe, has expunged some of the less helpful ideas (the meaningless dumbshow in the prelude, and Maddalena appearing in the first act), but there's not a lot he can do with a staging that in the interests of pretty stage pictures places the action too far upstage. *Rigoletto* isn't about pretty stage pictures.

But there are many good reasons for catching this latest revival. Daniele Gatti conducts the score as though it were composed yesterday, taking nothing for granted: brass and woodwind colouring is applied with great care (the orchestra was at its most responsive) and the tunes really "sing". You may not agree with everything Gatti does — I certainly don't with his breakneck speed for *Cortigiani*, or some "arty" phrasing in the Quartet — but you have to admire his consistently creative, searching approach to an old warhorse of a score.

And in Ramón Vargas there is the best Duke of Mantua to have been heard at the Garden for many years. His tone is beautifully honeyed, his phrasing elegant and sensuous, and he plays this dreadful cad with the sort of boyish charm that for once makes you understand why all the girls fall for him. The girls on Tuesday were Viktoria Loukianetz, a sweetly expressive, very credible Gilda with enough steel in her tone to ride the later acts, and the Albanian mezzo Enkelejda Shkosa's homely, very Mediterranean Maddalena — a house debut and a real find.

Franz Grundheber, the outstanding Wozzeck of the day and familiar here only in the German repertory (he sings all the big Verdi roles at home), was the hunchback. He is a wonderfully communicative actor, and there were many unforgettable moments: the inwardness of his cries of *Figlia!* at the end of the first-act duet, the way he seemed to shed his hump in the finale, rising to full tragic stature. He was hampered in his duet with Gilda by having to sing so far away from the audience and the orchestra, and maybe true Verdian *legato* eluded him in too loud an appeal to the courtiers. But, as a dramatic reading of a great tragic role, this was profoundly stirring.

There were lively supporting performances from Timothy Robinson (Borsa) and Robert Lloyd, celebrating 25 years at the Garden with his gravelly Sparafucile.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER

Ramón Vargas's fine duke with Viktoria Loukianetz

Messages from the other side

WORLD MUSIC

Spirit Talk Mbira
Purcell Room

CHARTWELL DUTIRO, the force behind Spirit Talk Mbira, describes the sound made by the group as the "original trance music". The subtle rhythms of the "thumb piano", amplified by its surrounding gourd, have been used for centuries in his native Zimbabwe to call ancestors and seek their spirits' guidance. Dutiro is dedicated to spreading the word about his mbira music worldwide through workshops, teaching and concerts, and has just led his group on an Arts Council tour of the UK, culminating in this South Bank concert.

The secret of the music's considerable appeal lies in its hypnotic, gently ambiguous rhythms and the unaffected purity of its overall sound. Whether the repeated chants are meditating on the bounty provided by bees or fruit trees, exploring the vagaries of spirit possession, or simply celebrating the delights of beer drinking, the combination of the softly propulsive mbira polyrhythms, plangent antiphonal vocals and gently insistent hosho (seed-filled gourds) is, at its best, utterly beguiling. Dutiro, too, is a charismatic presence, frequently abandoning his mbira duties to prowl about in the audience, pausing occasionally to dance on the spot, singing all the while with his onstage partners.

While there is no doubt about the group's skill and commitment, or the authenticity and sincerity of the music they produce, there is a fundamental problem with its presentation. Like most traditional African music, it springs naturally from, and is deeply rooted in, its specific social context. The group's debut CD, indeed, is titled *Ndonga Mahwe*, which refers to the musical beginning of a three-day ceremony to bring back the spirit of a deceased villager.

Transposing such music to a formal, seated concert venue presents considerable difficulties. It might have been better had he accepted the limitations imposed by the setting and resigned himself to giving a species of illustrated musical lecture, as he does so informatively on his CD sleeve; instead, he attempted to conjure up, single-handedly, the atmosphere of Zimbabwe, with distinctly mixed results.

Spontaneously enthusiastic audience participation is not something British concert-goers are renowned for. On this occasion, the music's rhythmic grace and elegance was compromised by their over-emphatic arbitrary clapping, and space for dancing was necessarily restricted, so the integrity and energy of Dutiro and his group left a stronger impression than the spiritual intensity of their music.

CHRIS PARKER

Happy birthday, dear Dracula: **Erica Wagner** sinks her teeth into three books that celebrate Bram Stoker's ghastly Count on his centenary

Lively tales from the Un-Dead

Dracula seems made for the movies. He defies the centuries, grows older, then younger, transforms himself into coils of white mist and scuttles headfirst down the precipitous walls of his Transylvanian castle, a mode of propulsion rather more lizard than bat. He is a special effect incarnate — or rather, *uncarnate*, for whether one Un-Dead can be said to have flesh is a moot point. And he is, of course, only a literary creation, but so far has Count Dracula entered the collective imagination that it is hard to believe that he or his kind do not stalk the earth.

Constable paid no advance to Bram Stoker for the typewritten manuscript he delivered to them in May of 1897: in fact, he would receive no money at all until the book sold 1,000 copies, at which point he would receive 1s. 6d. on subsequent books sold. The first run was 3,000 copies — one of which is now on sale at Buddenbrooks, in Boston, for $9,500.

At the time of its publication, one reader was convinced the book would be the making of Stoker, who earned his living first as civil servant and then as secretary and touring manager for the actor Henry Irving. "No book since Mrs Shelley's *Frankenstein* or indeed any other at all has come near yours in originality, or terror — Poe is nowhere ... it should make a widespread reputation and much money for you." Unfortunately the admiration of one's mother, however delightful, is not always a reliable pointer to success. Neither Stoker, nor Constable, made any immediate fortune from his tale, but it was a slow burn, and *Dracula* — with its blend of sexual and technical anxiety, its deadly and seductive anti-hero, playing and preying on modern fears and dreams — is still selling 600 copies a month.

Constable are proud of having backed, however guardedly, the dark fantasy from the start. To mark the centenary they have now produced Peter Haining and Peter Tremayne's *The Un-Dead: The Legend of Bram Stoker and Dracula*. Unlike Barbara Belford's *Bram Stoker*, Haining and Tremayne look at Stoker's life almost exclusively from the vampiric standpoint, although they will stray enough from the bloody path to reproduce a letter, written by Stoker in 1872, to his new hero Walt Whitman: "How sweet a thing it is for a strong healthy man with a woman's eyes and a child's wishes to feel that he can speak so to man who can be if he wishes, father, and brother and wife to his soul ... " Whitman and Stoker did eventually meet, and the poet found the clerk "like a breath of good, healthy, breezy sea air".

Thankfully, Haining and Tremayne do not really go in for sexual psychologising. Stoker worshipped Whitman, married his friend Oscar Wilde's ex, seems to have dropped Oscar like a hot rock at the time of his "disgrace", and shortly thereafter wrote a novel whose sexual paraphrase seems all too clear to the modern reader. This is

THE UN-DEAD
The Legend of Bram Stoker and Dracula
By Peter Haining and Peter Tremayne
Constable, £16.95
ISBN 0 09 475430 6

DRACULA
By Bram Stoker
Edited by Nina Auerach and David J. Skal
Norton, £6.95
ISBN 0 393 97012 4

THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF DRACULA
Edited by Stephen Jones
Robinson, £6.99
ISBN 1 85487 520 5

murky ground, and if you wish to tread here you will find plenty to entertain you in several of the essays that come at the end of the Norton edition of *Dracula*. Haining and Tremayne are keener to trace the mythic, rather than the psychic, pedigree of Dracula. They place the vampire firmly in an Irish tradition of spirits, emphasising the importance of Stoker's mother's tales of ghosts and banshees. They note, too, that the Irish for "bad blood" is *drochfhola* (pronounced not unlike our hero's name), and that there is a Kerry folk tale about *Dùn Dreach-Fhola*, the Castle of Blood Visage, said to be high in the mountains of Co Kerry.

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Vampire vision: *Nosferatu*, Max Schreck, 1922

Speculation only? The authors are certainly not averse to it, and there are a few too many sentences that begin "Did he have any idea ... ?" or "One wonders what thoughts passed through Bram Stoker's mind ... " Maybe he did, and one does, but it doesn't really get one anywhere. Despite this, and a slight descent into gravespotterish pedantry, this is an entertaining and well-researched trawl through Stoker's influences and antecedents, and should send the reader hastening back to its progenitor.

In which case, you might wish to invest in the new Norton edition, handsome and pleasing to read. Where Haining and Tremayne contend that "factual accuracy characterises *Dracula*", the footnotes provided by the editors here reveal an author not always over-concerned with consistency in the rush and power of his tale. They are fine on highlighting what might arrest the Victorian reader ("The word *strange* in late Victorian England was often suffused with homoerotic undercurrents") and provide contemporary reaction as well as modern criticism — includi an essay by Christopher Cr which christens the vampi destroying posse "Van He ing and His Crew of Lig catch them next week at Brixton Academy ...

The Mammoth Book Dracula (which opens the first publication of Sto own stilted stage version o book) attempts to update Count. Here are myster strangers with strong, teeth aplenty, mystifie mesmerised by the mo world, severing arteries sucking blood. But we are not so easily shocked: we who Dracula is. The Cou— taken out of his conte — comes across as curiousl fashioned. Would he rec any kinship with Anne 's glamorous Lestat?

He seems made fo the movies. And yet what fi has truly captured him his kind? Bela Lugosi, w his high collar and camp gs, engraved an image of D ula on 20th-century co ness: but it is only t, a single image. Return the novel for the real D ula, ageless, powerful, se tive, cruel. He is elusive, a tive; we fear him and want . He is fine company still.

Battle for the no man's land of the mind

John Forrester is well known for his translations of Lacan and for his books on psychoanalysis. This excellent collection of essays is elegantly readable. The title essay presents a measured, reasonable defence of Freud which neither conceals his flaws nor blackens his character.

In contrast, Frederick Crews's polemical onslaught upon Freud is neither measured nor reasonable. It originated in an article first published in *The New York Review of Books*. This will already be familiar to anyone interested in the re-evaluation of Freud and psychoanalysis which has been taking place in recent years. It is followed by two further articles on the "recovered memory movement". The rest of the book consists of the flood of letters which his articles provoked, with his replies and an Afterword.

Anthony Storr

DISPATCHES FROM THE FREUD WARS
By John Forrester
Harvard University Press, £18.50
ISBN 0 674 53960 5

THE MEMORY WARS
By Frederick Crews
Granta, £9.99
ISBN 1 86207 010 5

Some readers may recall that I reviewed Mark Pendergrast's book *Victims of Memory* (HarperCollins, £14.99) in *The Times* not long ago. Both Crews and I think highly of Pendergrast's study, which demonstrates that some therapists can persuade some gullible patients to recall incidents of childhood sexual abuse which never took place. However, agreement with Crews in this respect does not commit anyone to go along with the rest of his attack upon Freud, which is so intemperate that even psychiatrists like myself who are highly critical of Freud feel appalled by Crews's portrayal of Freud as a dishonest crook, and his lack of appreciation of the positive aspects of Freud's legacy.

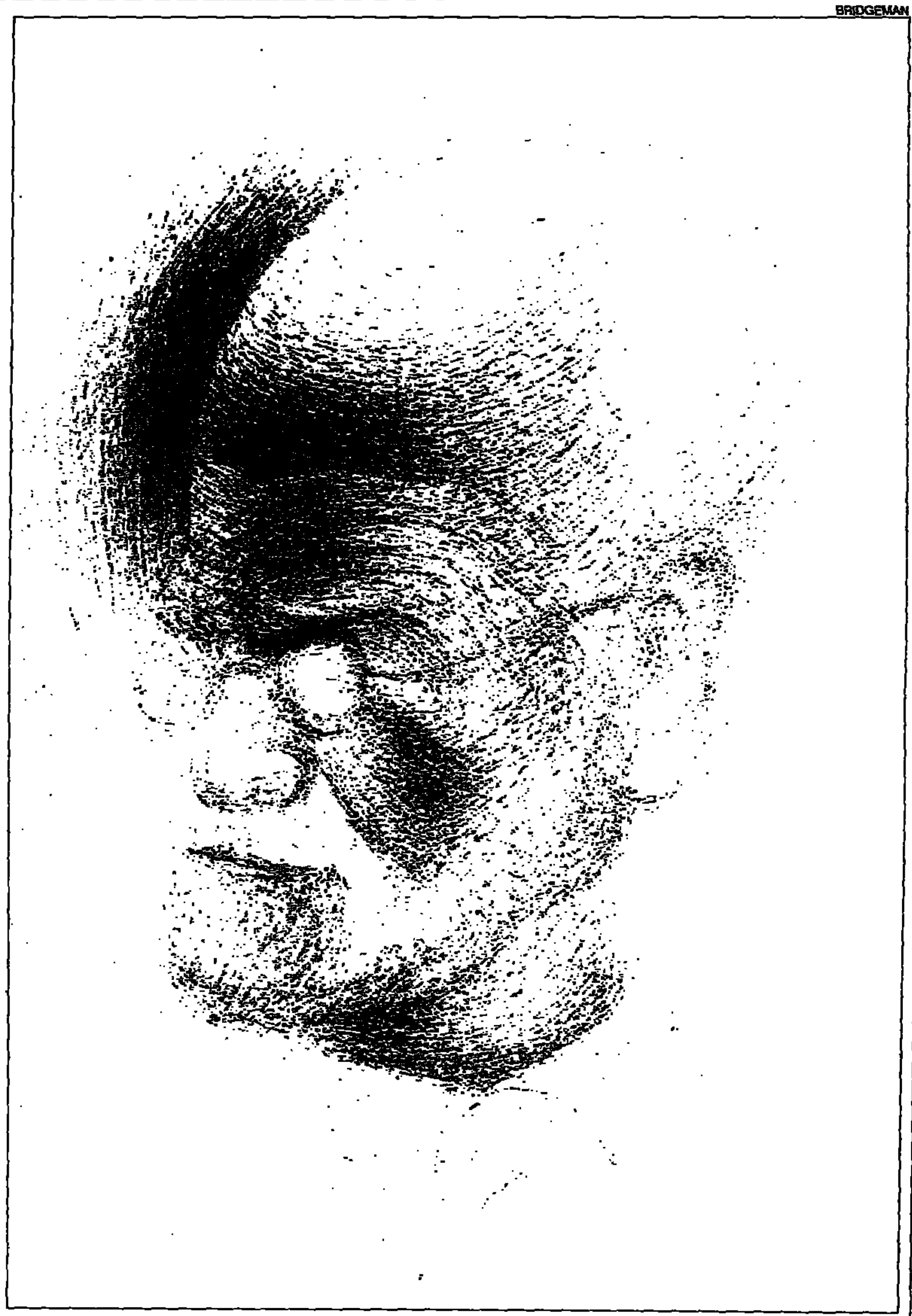
Freud was a great clinical observer and a great writer. He permanently altered the way we talk, write, and think about human nature. Though there is no evidence that psychoanalysis, in its original form, is a more effective form of psychotherapy than any other, every psychotherapist owes a debt to Freud.

In Freud's day, physicians were great men who handed out advice, prescriptions, and instructions. By abandoning this role, Freud taught us how to listen, and established a form of treatment in which patients learnt to help themselves. This remains his most important contribution.

Freud wanted to be an impersonal investigator. But he found that his patients would not allow this, and made him into a father-figure, an idealised lover, or a saviour. Freud overcame his initial distaste for this phenomenon and named it "transference". By understanding the patient's emotional attitude to the analyst, it becomes possible to understand and modify his relationships with people outside the consulting-room. Transference remains Freud's second most important discovery.

Unfortunately, psychoanalysis became a cult, offering a secular path to salvation. Freud, who was well aware of the requirements of scientific truth, abandoned them and became a guru, interpreting psychological data in terms of his own theoretical preconceptions. But he was misguided rather than wicked. As his erstwhile colleague Breuer said of him: "Freud is a man given to absolute and exclusive formulations: this is a psychical need which, in my opinion, leads to excessive generalisation." Although Freud did not lead us into the promised land, 20th-century man is still greatly indebted to him, and it is possible to judge his contribution fairly without either being a psychoanalytic convert or a vicious enemy.

BRIDGEMAN



Shadowy legacy of a doctor who made himself into a guru: Sigmund Freud by Salvador Dali, July 1938

Authors always say that

Howard Davies on the litera will to be Widmerpool

BY THE TIME this collection of journals begins Anthony Powell has given up on trips to London. Friends call in on him in Somerset, but the cast of characters — so extensive in the earlier volumes of his journals — has narrowed considerably. Life is steady, comfortable, quite social for a man in his mid-80s, but inevitably somewhat lacking in incident or controversy.

Is that a polite, coded way of saying that these diaries are boring and trivial? Well, not quite.

Certainly the trivia quotient is high. There is detail here of Powell's diet, and of the inroads he continues to make into his impressive cellar, which may in future overwhelm even the most assiduous American PhD student of the Powell oeuvre. We learn far more than anyone can reasonably want to know about ARC's plan to extend its quarry near by. I could now reproduce the entire menu of the Bridge House Hotel, Nunney. And many of Powell's encounters are with sycophantic interviewers who are rewarded, if they are suitably deferential, with paperback volumes of *Dance*.

But this overtakes the case for the prosecution. For even in this thin seam there are nuggets of worth.

Some are pure comedy. Frank Longford calls to say he has been asked to appear in a television programme about people who had "appeared" in novels, and wanted confirmation that he was the original of Widmerpool: "I (AP) began to explain he was not, but he cut me short saying: 'Authors always say that.' After a bit I began to understand that he wanted to 'be' Widmerpool (the fact that Frank does not interest me in the smallest degree as a character in a novel being naturally impossible to explain to hi . .

JOURNAL 1990-1992
By Anthony P ll
Heinemann, £
ISBN 0 434 004

There is fun to b ad, too, in the undercurren f hostility to other novelis especially Graham Greene Norman Sherry (researchi for the second volume of biography) described G am as a 'sly old fox', an derstatement. All the same e is glad he has grasped at t this, as was by no mea pparent from his first volu e

But the real w th f these journals lies else he — in Powell's daily do o iterary criticism. This v um covers the period whe h aban doned his reviewing r *The Daily Telegraph* (a ainful episode which s ciously passed over in lenc with the side benefit t at hi ritical faculties now h ve t jour nals as their pri e out.

HE READS every da from Theocritus (a disinterr Eton prize) to Joyce, and rea with a freshness and im diacy quite beyond most of half his age. His judgmentsre not mine — indeed, only haps on Proust and Balza ight we agree — but he alw has a point. And, more im tantly, he engages in a d of personal dialogue, parlarly with Shakespeare, ch is quite compelling.

I would be happy think that, at 90, one might d so much, drink so well a enjoy such a life. Even eccent calls from Frank Longford c ld be supported.

Howard Davies is Depv Governor of the Bank England.

Take me home, country road — straight back to the city

DES JENSON

Smashing the pot plants: Cusk follows in the footsteps of *Jane Eyre* with her steely, sharp-eyed heroine

Helen Dunmore admires the highly wrought comedy of Rachel Cusk's third novel

When Charlotte Brontë sent Jane Eyre to take up her first job as a governess, she knew that her heroine was entering the area of maximum potential humiliation for a woman of education. The governess occupied a no man's land where the ferocious demands of gentility were not balanced by any social gain. In her third novel, *The Country Life*, Rachel Cusk enters this promising territory. Stella Benson wishes to cut herself off from her past. To this end she takes a job looking after Martin, the disabled son of the wealthy Maddens, who live deep in the country. But she finds no peace or ease among the fields. Cusk's countryside is a highly-wrought comic creation. Sappy, oozing, blazing hot by day, pitch black at night, it lies in wait for Stella, assaulting her with sunstroke, revolting allergies, slavering dogs and rumour of man-traps. The inhabitants are set against one another, thickening the air with accusations. The pursuit of feuds is the great pleasure of village life.

Stella's response to her new surroundings is best summed up in her own words. At the end of a penitential Sunday toil into the nearest village to buy food (the Maddens have not thought to provide her cottage with more than a pint of milk), Stella notes the pots of flowers which adorn the houses. "My first thought on seeing these pots and baskets was to smash them," she observes. Stella, like Jane Eyre, is pure steel. She appraises her employers until she can manipulate them, and the weaker she appears, the greater her eventual triumphs. Everything about Stella is deceptive, because she conceals her personality almost as successfully as she conceals her past.

THE COUNTRY LIFE
By Rachel Cusk
Picador, £15.99
ISBN 0 330 34922 8

Rachel Cusk's writing is coolly formal. She can seem a little over-mannered, but she certainly has style. Her heroine's calculating progress keeps being snagged by beautifully-constructed scenes of farce. Stella cannot drive, though she has taken her job on the understanding that she will drive Martin Madden to his day centre. Martin, who has grown attached to Stella, does not want her to be sacked. He directs her, changing gear for her as she clings to the wheel: "I closed my eyes and gasped, for the body of the car seemed so broad to me that an intake of breath was required to get it through apertures of impossible narrowness." This gut-wrenching progress down the country lanes leads to a "group session", led with gruesome coyness by a staff member whose real interest lies in slandering the Maddens.

Cusk has taken the pulse of a very strange society in this novel. This is the English countryside in the 1990s, but the incivility of the masters and the revenge of their servants are timeless themes. The growth of Martin's affection for Stella cuts across all the barriers. Stella has made herself into an outsider, but Martin has been born disabled and can value precisely what she is throwing away. For all his social and economic privileges, he has to fight hard for admission into the world which surrounds him. He gets under Stella's guard and goads her into intimacy. Like Jane Eyre, she must begin to disclose herself before she can be loving or beloved.

The Country Life is much tougher and funnier than Rachel Cusk's last novel, *The Temporary*. Like the novels of Evelyn Waugh or Stella Gibbons, *The Country Life* has a moral core, meticulously disguised by comedy. Cusk is a highly interesting, original writer and more unusually, she is a joy to read.

Helen Dunmore's Love of Fat Men *is published by Viking, priced £16.*

TIMES BOOKS

SATURDAY

John Naughton on the world of Bill Gates; Helen Dunmore on the talking dogs that take over New York; Donald Watt on the latest science fiction

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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Jeanette Winterson on a writer whose political significance is greater than her literary legacy

Girls will be boys

A dangerous and corrupting book!" "An obscene book." "Acts of the most horrible, unnatural and disgusting obscenity." "A book prejudicial to the morals of the community."

The Well of Loneliness was banned in Britain a few months after its publication in 1928. There are no descriptions of sex in it, no rude words, and the lesbian lovers do not *live happily ever after*. It was published by Jonathan Cape in the same year as two other books on the boundaries of propriety: Compton Mackenzie's *Extraordinary Women*, a cheap satire on cross-dressing inverts, and Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, whose first edition included pictures of the sapphic Vita Sackville-West, dressed as a boy. All three books *sold briskly*. Only Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* was seized and taken to trial. It was not officially republished in Britain until the Sixties.

Radclyffe Hall, known to her friends as John, was rich, conspicuous, open about her sexuality and very attractive to women. She had no difficulty in finding lovers, married or not, and her lifelong partner, Una, Lady Troubridge, had abandoned her marriage to Admiral Troubridge *to set up home with John. This had* caused something of a scandal at the time, and it may explain the hostility towards Radclyffe Hall.

Sexual indiscretion of all kinds could be tolerated, provided it was handled with the expected secrecy. To be open and straightforward, to publicly take a man's wife away from him, and to establish the new liaison with plenty of show and cash, did Hall no favours among the Establishment. Ten years later, her decision to publish *The Well* gave them their chance of revenge.

She was an established author *already. She had won the Prix* Femina for her novel *Adam's Breed*. Her books were popular sellers that treated edgy ideas, like women's independence, in an interesting way, although the style was conventional, or, as Virginina Woolf put it, "dull". Unfortunately for the realist school, then as now, it is style that saves a book long after any topical relevance is exhausted. Galsworthy, Walpole, Bennett, Sackville-West, Radclyffe Hall were topical, Woolf had style. If we do not read Radclyffe Hall's other books *now, it is because their* contemporary interest has passed, *not* because, as Sally Cline argues, Hall was a major writer whose body of work has been overshadowed by sexual politics.

Every biographer has an agenda. *Biography is not truth telling: it is a* version of the information available. If Sally Cline's has a little too much of the sacred shrine about it, it is ironic *that she so disapproves of the loyal* Una for massaging the myth for a lifetime and beyond. It is difficult to get past Una and towards John, for Una burnt and edited letters, journals and documents as she saw fit, and recorded daily her version of their life together and John's public persona. Sally Cline thinks Una may even have forced John to change her will, seven days before she died of cancer in 1943, aged 62.

RADCLYFFE HALL
A Woman called John
By Sally Cline
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5408 X

The earlier will had made equal provision for Una, her partner of 28 years, and Euguenia Souline, a Russian nurse with whom *she had fought out a wild passion* since the mid Thirties. Souline was Sex. Una was Home. It was a triangle that caused immense misery but neither John nor Una would accept any degree of change. It was Souline who finally escaped their oppressive geometry only to find her allowance cut off. What John could do in life she could surely arrange at death. Sally Cline is probably right to defend Souline against the gold-digger image too often attached to her, but wrong to lay so much of the blame in *the impossible menage on Una*. As usual in such situations, the loved *ones bear the tension while the lover* masquerades as torn hero.

Torn hero suited Radclyffe Hall. For most of her life the contradictions dynamised her and sent seismic shocks through the world she lived in. She was a Catholic and a lesbian. She dressed like a man from the waist up, a woman from the waist down. She voted Tory, was conventional in many of her opinions, yet took on the Establishment and refused to accept its verdict. She wanted her literary reputation, yet she was prepared to risk it for what she believed in. Risk it and pay for it: to cover the costs of the *Well*'s trials she had to sell her London house.

The Labour Party, who had supported her vociferously whilst in opposition, ignored her when they came to power. Her letters to the Home Secretary asking him to lift the ban on the book remained unanswered. Raffish and outspoken, her brio, her restlessness and above all, her courage made Radclyffe Hall a figurehead and an icon in her own time, and she has remained so in ours. Seventy years after publication, the last line of the infamous book, "Give us also the right to our existence", is still a matter for debate.

Hall as a young woman: she was prepared to risk her literary reputation for what she believed in

The exiles from history

Roy Foster on how Ireland takes the modern out of postmodern

Appositely, the pun in the title of Fintan O'Toole's dazzling new collection of essays comes from Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary*. O'Toole has a demonic eye for the tender conscience and the Achilles heel, allied to a Mephistophelian subtlety in argument. There are certain of his targets who, after reading this book, would probably like to see him retired to infernal regions. But in what matters, he is firmly *on the side* of the angels, and he certainly writes like one.

This has long been evident to entranced followers of his newspaper column in *The Irish Times*, infinitely the most serious as well as laceratingly funny commentary on modern Ireland; he has also delighted a large Irish readership with *Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch*, his thoughtful analysis of the Goodman beef scandal, which anatomised "cattle culture" in newly rich rural Ireland. Reading his last collection of essays, *Black Hole Green Card*, it struck me that he was describing a country which has moved from archaism to postmodernism without becoming modern: his new *collection develops the insight*, interpreting what emigration and "globalism" have done to Irish culture — and, less expectedly, how symbiotic the process has been.

Hence his vivid, if horror-struck, interest in the Michael Flatley enterprises of *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*, which combine traditional Irish rhythms, chorus-line eroticism and fascist kitsch. Hence his fascination with the penetration of Irish memory by received ideas of American culture ("35 years of being an offshore economic dependency of the United States have left us with a society that is seen by an increasing number of its young people as a pale imitation of the Real Thing across the Atlantic").

But he also explores the Irish resonances of the Jesse James legend, and the reason why *Chief Sitting Bull died* with an Irishman's papal medal round his neck. O'Toole has an eye for the way traditional culture tried to shore itself up against offshore invasions; he introduces us to T. H. Nally's attempt in 1917 to replace Santa Claus with an authenticated Gaelic alternative ("Finn Varra Maa") and a 1945 Gaelic panto whose "highest point of distinction was the excellent translation of the popular hit *I Got a Gal in Kalamazoo*."

The theme of *Black Hole Green Card* was the death of an Ireland aggressively imagined by the creators of modern Irish nationalism. But what interests him now is its replacement: the confidence which accompanies Ireland's postmodern embrace of the ersatz. Trust *him to find a cowboy ranch in* Co Leitrim which invites clients to "Live the Legend of the Old West ... right here in Ireland."

Thus his long analysis of Tony O'Reilly, the "global Irishman", self-made international millionaire, media magnate, "folk hero of capitalism's unheroic age," blends censure with appreciation — and a perceptive sympathy for the insecurities in his background *which drive the phenomenon* on. At the same time he shows how O'Reilly began his meteoric rise by "branding Ireland" through marketing Kerrygold butter — and ends the essay with O'Reilly's discovery that he could make "Waterford" crystal cheaply in Czechoslovakia, since the American market no longer associated "Waterford" with "Ireland". "A part of the country has become, finally, no more than a brand, a name without a face, a placeless image, freed at last from history."

THE EX-ISLE
OF ERIN
Images of a
Global Ireland
By Fintan O'Toole
New Island Books, £7.99
ISBN 1 874597 49 9

On one level at least we may be being freed from the forces which *made us what we are. But the* climax of the book is a long meditation on the terrible background of child abuse behind a succession of scandals in religious teaching orders (one of which indirectly brought down Albert Reynolds's government), the bitter revelation that Father Michael Cleary, shrillest of newspaper pulpiteers on behalf of "traditional morality", died leaving two children by his "housekeeper" and the continuing tragedy of abandoned newborn babies in rural Ireland. How do Irish people, not so postmodern after all, react? "One of the strange things about Ireland is that, perhaps uniquely among societies, we have insisted on proclaiming a public morality that is in many ways worse than our private values. Our peculiar form of hypocrisy has been not a *whitened but a blackened* sepulchre, proclaiming to the world a rigid, intolerant, heartless face that belies the actual decency and humanity of the way ordinary Irish people tend to look upon people in trouble." The point, O'Toole tells us, is to construct laws that reflect our better selves.

Thus, *though his mordant* sense of a trend in the making recalls Tom Wolfe, O'Toole is the worthy inheritor to an Irish tradition of humane moralists who include Sean O'Faolain, "AE", and Hubert Butler. This book — profound, witty, and when necessary excoriating — demands quotation. Even more, it demands reading, and not just for Irish people bewildered at where their country is going. O'Toole provides the most illuminating and cautionary modern commentary on that strange process whereby we base our expectations on ill-founded assumptions about history: until (as Lewis Namier put it) by a double process of repetition we imagine the past and remember *the future. And no country*, whether ex-isle or ex-empire, is immune to that.

DES JENSON

Irish culture: locked into a rigid public morality

An unkindly uncle

Geli with Hitler: she confided to friends that he insisted on "horrible things"

M. R. D. Foot

HITLER AND GELI
By Ronald Hayman
Bloomsbury, £16.99
ISBN 0 7475 2723 7

This is a book of nasty stories, neatly told, about an evil but captivating man.

A modern Dante would need to build an extra pit at the bottom of Hell to hold Hitler and Stalin; yet books about Hitler continue to appear. This one has many details about his parentage and private life before he became dictator; details that still have a certain macabre fascination. Chapters on them alternate with chapters on German politics. The story runs on to 1931, when his niece Geli Gaubal, who shared a flat with him, was found dead in it.

Hayman establishes what a primitive lot the peasants of the Waldviertel, the corner of Austria from which Hitler came, were; how brutal his childhood was (like Eisenhower, he was repeatedly thrashed by his father); and how uncertain he was about his own ancestry — he was never sure whether his father's father had been Aryan or Jew. (Later research seems to have cleared this up in favour of Aryan.) Those categories came to mean everything to him, so obsessed was he by concepts of "racial purity".

His father had bettered himself and become an Austrian customs officer, but died when Hitler was 12. Hitler spent most of his teens in poverty in Freud's Vienna, where women of easy virtue abounded; *but never seems to* have found a woman with whom he could have a normal relationship. When he was nearly 40, he took up with his *sister's daughter* Geli: a high-spirited teenager whom he seems to have kept a virtual prisoner in his flat in Munich.

Hayman reckons that, as *she was family*, Hitler thought she could be trust not to gossip — an odd non sequitur, but logic was never one of Hitler's long suits. He maintains, on rather slender evidence, that Hitler got his sexual release from playing with himself while Geli knelt over him and made water on him; certainly she *did confide* to one or two friends that he insisted on "*horrible things*" *when they* were alone together.

She was found shot, in a room locked from inside, with one of Hitler's pistols — which she certainly knew how to use — beside her. The precise circumstances have never been cleared up, and Hayman (while protesting that there ought to have been an inquest) *does not establish whether it* was suicide, accident, or murder. He does establish that Hitler, who used to play airs from Wagner and Verdi to her, *never sat at a piano again*; and reckons that he then picked up Eva Braun as a poor substitute for Geli on whom his heart remained set. (The two girls had met once; Geli despised Eva.)

He indicates, without proving, that the harshnesses of the Waldviertel had their part to play in the sadistic horrors that accompanied Nazi power in Germany. He makes no attempt to hide or to condone the regime's bestialities. In a concluding passage (not enhanced by a reference to "the Roman Emperor Sulla") he describes Geli as Hitler's "only friend"; writing off the rest, from Hess to Axmann, as mere sycophants.

What lies beneath the surface

Elaine Feinstein

SKIN
By Tobias Hill
Faber, £8.99
ISBN 0 571 179562 2

TEN WOMEN WHO SHOOK THE WORLD
By Sylvia Brownrigg
Gollancz, £12.99
ISBN 0 575 06490 0

THE stories of Tobias Hill range the landscape of three continents with a kind of ventriloquist genius: he is equally confident in the voice of a Japanese schoolboy swapping treasures, or a road trash croupier in Vegas willing to barter his survival against an hour's conversation with a girl. The poetry of the writing lies in its surprise and precision — a smell of mustard in the flash of a gun, for instance, which would have delighted Nabokov — or an understated *lyricism which* recalls Raymond Carver.

Hill's characters are often outsiders: a Portuguese-speaking waitress at the formica tables of the Alba Fish Bar near Chapel Market refusing to remember her ugly past, or a boy walking into the desert *to be shot, oddly troubled to* think he will feel the pain before he hears the gun.

Yet if social inclusion looks like a privilege for those outside, it has its own signal dangers. In the marvellous title story, a Yakuza waits in his trailer to be murdered, knowing he won't be allowed "to wash his feet" or resign from the criminal underworld. Whole lives are evoked *in a paragraph: a girl in a* silkworm factory loses her finger and hence her skills, so she is left to die in the cold; after her death, her mother shows a formal Japanese gratitude for the black kimono sent by the firm. Once alone, she shreds it with scissors. There is a press of detailed knowledge here altogether remarkable in so precocious a *talent*. Already an award-winning poet, *Skin* establishes Tobias Hill as an important writer of fiction.

Sylvia Brownrigg's title has a misleadingly feisty buzz; she is a gentle writer, and a true original; the women at the centre of her stories amaze less by shaking the world than by taking common female solutions to surreal extremes. The lady who chooses a stretch of a desert for her *starvation* diet begins by hoping to impress her work-mates with an immaculate shape; soon she is conversing dangerously with a lost lover in anorexic delirium and dwindling to the point of no return. A woman trains birds to perform Shakespeare; her revolutionary performances are praised, but "the charge of exploitation does for her." In *She Who Caught Buses*, Brownrigg enters the mind of a woman tormented at bus-stops and library check-outs by a tribe of Chranks in the guise of human beings.

BROWNRIGG'S voices are trustworthy, or at least seductive, even when they begin somewhere we fail to recognise; the isolated childhood which underlies the paranoid vision of Chranks also holds a family of owls and a persimmon tree as the most magical of friends. Perhaps it is only in the story where two women engage in building the seven wonders of the world in record time that she goes too close to the line between irony and whimsy for comfort.

Elaine Feinstein's latest poetry collection, Daylight, *is published by Carcanet, priced £6.95.*

Truly scrumptious, he was truly scrumptious

Tania Glyde

THE TASTE OF A MAN
By Slavenka Drakulić
Abacus, £9.99
ISBN 0 349 10932 X

THERE are several themes in contemporary women's fiction which are starting to get a bit overcooked: sexual abuse, food fetishism and self-mutilation, to name the most obvious. However, I would not criticise anybody for writing about these things, because for many women they are realities. All the same, I read the title of this book and the blurb — "a love based on pure appetite" that comes to an "ecstatic and terrible conclusion" — and thought, "Put another record on, please."

The Taste of a Man is Croation writer Slavenka Drakulić's third novel and sixth book. Tereza is a young Polish writer who comes to New York to study. When she meets Jose, a Brazilian academic researching cannibalism, the chemistry between them is instant and absolute. They move in together and begin a relationship of an intensity most people can only dream (or read) about. But he has a wife and baby back in Brazil. And when the wife comes to America to try to get him home again, Tereza realises there is only one possible conclusion to their relationship. The book's ending is no surprise — the story is told as Tereza cleans the bloodstained flat and prepares to return to Warsaw.

Drakulić: delicate

What grabbed me about this book were the subtexts in it, rather than the relationship itself — they are far more interesting and sinister: the accounts of Brazilian history, colonialism and native rituals; Tereza's childhood in Poland; and the concept of being foreign, having to use and share a language that is not your own. Both Tereza and Jose are immigrants from poorer countries, where the consumer culture of America was not available to them. Tereza, in her manner of destroying Jose and consummating their love, takes human consumption to such a logical extreme that all she can do is go back to Warsaw. She has, literally, *done* New York.

The book could be a satire, but I do not think it is. Any satire here is buried under the love story, with its delicate explicitness of description. There is almost a French feel to this book: the author is not afraid to explore and describe the minutiae of relationships and little else, where an English writer might feel that she had to use a larger arena.

Nevertheless, this book lived with me afterwards for the possibilities explored in it. It is powerfully written.

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Bargains of the week: cycling trips to Bath; painting holidays in France; student ferry fares to Germany

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■ COTSWOLD walking tours and Cheltenham to Bath cycling trips are available this month at the discounted price of £269 a person a week from Compass Holidays and include B&B in small hotels and inns. Details: 01242 250642.

■ GAMBIA for £379 a person for a week from July 3 in a hotel with breakfast is on offer from Going Places. Return flights from Manchester. Details: 0541 555334.

■ A PAINTING holiday in the Charente region of France is available from July 7 for a week from £300 a person, including all-day tuition in drawing, watercolour and acrylics and full board in a converted barn with pool. Travel is extra. Details: 0171-226 5370.

■ MIDWEEK breaks in Disneyland Paris are available from £221 an adult, a £35 saving, until July 13 from Paris Travel Service. Price includes Eurostar travel, park entrance fees and two nights' accommodation at a Disney hotel on site. Details: 01992 456100.

■ GOZO holidays from Belleair start at £312 a person in apartments for a week to £651 in a five-star hotel in August. Gatwick-Malta flights and helicopter transfer to Gozo included. Details: 0181-785 3266.

■ SEAFARER CRUISES has waived single occupancy supplements on week-long trips around Turkey's Turquoise coast, saving solo travellers up to £750. The price of £899 a person includes return flights from UK and full board. Details: 0171-234 0500.

■ FLORIDA VACATIONS is offering properties with two to five bedrooms, some with pools, on Sanibel Island this summer. Prices depend on the numbers staying in each property and start from £629 a person a week, including flights and car hire. Details: 01727 841568.

FLIGHTS

MAJOR TRAVEL will provide a free return ticket to Paris for every passenger booking a British Airways transatlantic flight by June 30 for travel by July 21. Details: 0171-485 7017.

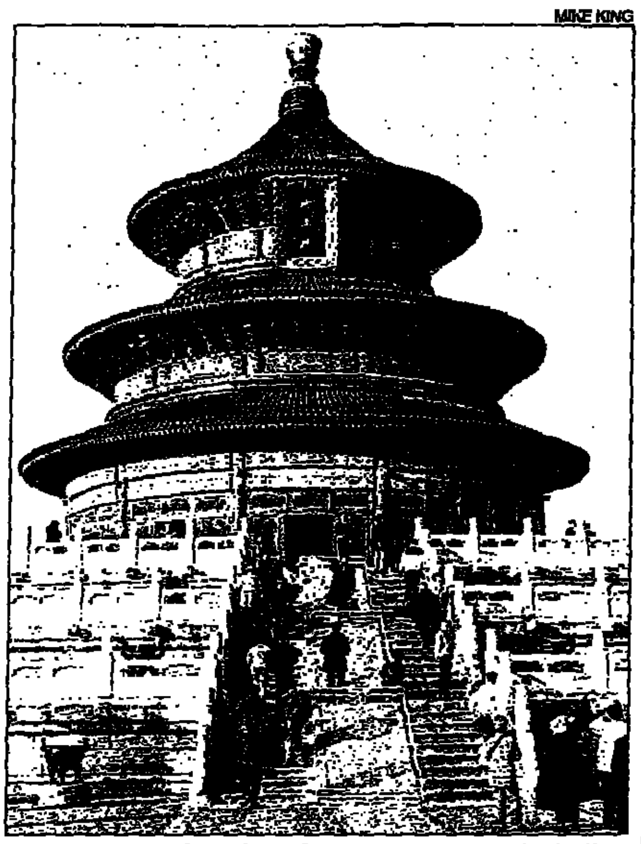
■ GULF AIR has lowered fares to Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat and Doha. Leisure passengers pay from £399 for an excursion fare and full-fare business passengers receive a guaranteed upgrade or they can take along a companion free of charge. Details: 0171-408 1717.

■ AIR INDIA flights from Heathrow to Chicago or Toronto cost £249 return during June. Details from Trailfinders: 0171-937 5400.

■ FLIGHTS to Beijing or Bangkok cost from £420 through Flightbookers. Departures can be made from London, Manchester, Edinburgh or Birmingham. Details: 0171-757 2444.

■ BRITISH AIRWAYS has introduced an £89 excursion between Birmingham and Amsterdam. Book 14 days ahead. Details: 0345 222111.

MIKE KING



FIVE NIGHTS in Beijing from £459 a person, including flights — a £238 saving — is among offers in the Summer Specials brochure from Hayes & Jarvis available until the end of September. Other offers include Hurghada, Egypt, from £269, and Mombasa from £439 a week with half board. Details: 0181-748 0088

FERRIES

STUDENT FARES to Denmark, Germany, Sweden or Holland start at £29.25 single with Scandinavian Seaways. Details: 0990 333000.

■ STENA LINE has extended its duty-free sale until June 30. Day trips to Calais and Dieppe cost £15 a car and £1 a passenger, or £1 for foot passengers. Details: 0990 767676.

■ IRISH FERRIES has week-long, west coast holidays from £121 an adult, based on four travelling, to include return ferry and self-catering accommodation. Children under 16 travel free. Details: 0990 170000.

■ P&O FERRIES is promoting European short breaks from £81 a person, based on two travelling and including ferry and two nights B&B. Details: 01992 456045.

■ SALLY FERRIES has introduced new Euro economy fares with savings of up to £119 for a car and five people to Ostend and Dunkirk. Bookings must be made 30 days in advance. Details: 0345 160000.

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THE Libertel French Hotel Group is offering savings of up to 45 per cent off regular rates at 32 of its hotels in Paris, Lyons and Bordeaux. From June 30 to the end of August, rates range from Fr310 to Fr500 a room a night for single or double occupancy and includes taxis and service charge. Details: 0800 895950.

■ THE special summer rate at the Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath, until the end of August is £227 a night for two people and including dinner and breakfast. Details: 01225 739955.

■ THREE-NIGHT bargain breaks — brunch and dinner at a cost of £119 a person — are available at the Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight from July 11. Details: 01705 492121.

■ THE new Hotel Negara in Singapore has a special discount of 50 per cent off normal rates for rooms and suites until September 15. Details: 0171-583 5212.

■ THE four-star Hatton Court Hotel in Upton St Leonards in the Cotswolds is offering a two-night, half-board break from £130 a person through Crystal Britain. Details: 0181-390 8513.

■ ONE of the best views across London can be had from the rooftop bar and restaurant at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington. Weekend rates between July 1 and September start at £150 a room a night, including English breakfast. Details: 0171-937 8000.

■ THE Turnberry Hotel in Scotland has a golfing Masterclass offer, including three nights' accommodation based on two people sharing, breakfast and dinner and tuition with a golf professional. Cost is from £676 a person and a beginners' programme costs from £590. Details: 01655 331000.

■ ENJOY the delights of Blackpool this summer, and stay at the Hydro Hotel for only £29.50 a person a night midweek, rising to £32.50 at weekends. The offer is available through Goldenrail. Details: 0161-238 5206.

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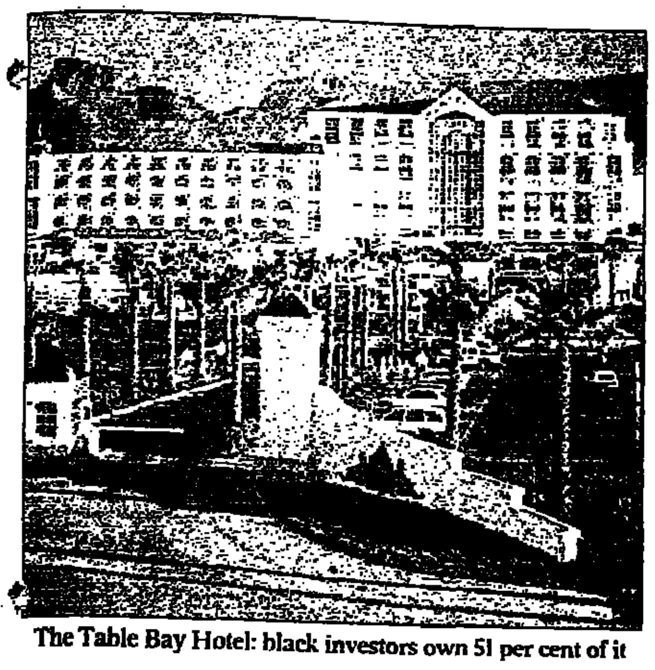

The Table Bay Hotel: black investors own 51 per cent of it

Hotel hails end of apartheid

By Mary Gold

SOUTH AFRICA'S President, Nelson Mandela, has hailed Cape Town's newest hotel as a testimony to the end of the apartheid regime. The Table Bay, built on the Victoria and Alfred waterfront in the lee of Table Mountain, is 51 per cent owned by 20,000 black investors.

The President, who officially opened the £32 million hotel for Sun International, described it as a milestone in the integration of two societies, and said: "Until now, these people have never been able to stake a claim in the economy of their birth."

The 329-room Table Bay is Sun International's first city hotel and its first South African hotel outside the former South African homelands.

Its vast glass atrium and restaurant overlook the mountain and bustling converted dock area of shops and bars. It has a health spa, a gymnasium with personal trainers and a rooftop swimming pool. Sun International won the contract for the site against competition from Hyatt, Ritz Carlton and InterContinental.

Among the guests at the launch party were Sol Kerzner, 61, the South African millionaire and chairman of Sun International. His empire includes 34 hotels worldwide (21 with casinos) including several in Mauritius, the Bahamas, the Comoros and former homelands. His hotel in Sun City is the largest, attracting two million visitors a year.

Mark Thatcher made a rare public appearance at the launch party with his wife Diane as did Dr Christiaan Barnard, 74, the celebrated heart surgeon and his wife, Karin, 33, a former Miss South Africa.

A weak rand increased international tourism to South Africa by 15 per cent in the first six months of this year with British visitors topping the league. A total of 228,000 tourists in 1996 were from the UK. Most visitors to southern Africa stay at the four major attractions — Victoria Falls, the game parks, the Sun City gambling resort and Cape Town.

Cape Town is an ideal base for exploring the winelands, the Cape Dutch homesteads and visiting the Jackass penguin colony at Boulders Bay. Half an hour by boat from the harbour is Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 24 years in prison. His cell is now open to the public.

● Rooms at the Table Bay cost from £160 for a single to £1,250 for an executive suite.

BA becomes worldly wise

It is quite extraordinary how airlines generate such intense feelings of national pride and even chauvinism.

From the earliest days of commercial aviation, when flying boats and converted bombers lumbered around the world, they were seen as a means of extending influence and power.

Every country, whether an African dictatorship or a Western democracy, wanted a "national airline" to carry its flag, to shout its name in foreign parts and to reflect its national pride.

Little more than a decade ago almost all the big international airlines were state-owned and were considered to be playing a vital part in foreign policy. The Russian airline Aeroflot was no more than a military machine that just happened to carry passengers.

In the UK the newly privatised British Airways was beginning to flex its commercial muscles.

Senior officials at BA suddenly realised that the world had changed. Shareholders came from all over the world, at one stage owning as much as 40 per cent of the company. The percentage of British passengers was shrinking. Countries to which Britain meant little but good service and good value now provide more than 65 per cent of an average planeload.

Other airlines were taking advantage of the crumbling barriers to international travel. Cabin staff spoke several languages. Fuel and food came from around the world. Crews and sales teams were based in foreign countries, wooing locals rather than returning nationals.

Yet a BA television commercial still showed the relief, the feeling of "homecoming" that a British traveller could expect on board British Airways. But what did the exhortation to "fly the flag" matter to an Indian, a Japanese, an American or a Nigerian?

Gradually, internal changes began appearing in the way in which the airline was marketed, especially as it took on franchise operations where international barriers had come crashing down. Staff were told to regard themselves and their airline as multinational — but with a British accent.

A few years ago a new word began entering the aviation vocabulary: globalisation. If they were to survive, airlines could no longer rely on nationalism. Alliances were struck with big airlines, linking with smaller ones to provide "feed" to lucrative long-haul routes.

British Airways knew it, too, had to change. But though market surveys showed that the airline passenger of today claims he does not mind, or probably know, where his aircraft or airline is registered, BA knew there would be screams of outrage if it began to tone down its "Britishness."

Commercial logic dictated that both the union flag and the word "British" should be abandoned altogether, or at least become very muted. BA has now tried a mixture by retaining the red, white and blue colour scheme and the name British Airways in large capital letters, but by painting the tailfins with ethnic and folk designs from around the world.

Already some commentators are predictably demanding to know: "What's wrong with being British?"

The answer is, of course, "nothing". But air travel is now ubiquitous and purely commercial.

What matters now is whether the new BA tailfins and the other multi-coloured paraphernalia put more bottoms on seats.

So far it has been only a slight gamble. The next step must be to go the whole hog, to ignore the chauvinists, and become World Airlines.

> The next step must surely be to go the whole hog

Beijing promises to raise tourism standard

By Robin Young

MORE THAN 140 Beijing hotels have signed a joint pledge to improve their management, staff training and marketing methods. The city authorities say that the move will "help to defend the honour of Beijing's tourism industry and improve its quality of service".

Since 1979, when China opened up to international visitors, hotels have become big business in the Chinese capital. Beijing now has 210 hotels qualifying for ratings stars, including 16 with internationally recognised five-star awards. The city's income from overseas tourism totalled £1.37 billion in 1996, almost a quarter of all China's receipts from that source.

Beijing's total revenue from tourism last year accounted for a third of the city's gross domestic product.

At the top, Beijing's hotel standards are good indeed, as shown by the preference of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, for the Shangri-La Group's China World Hotel rather than her country's embassy. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac have also stayed at the China World.

Xin Tao, vice-manager of the China World and vice-chairman of the Beijing Tourism Industry Association's hotel branch that organised and negotiated the ten-point pledge, says: "The promises the hotels in the capital city have made show their determination to maintain the image of their industry through exchange of information and close co-operation."

The hotels promise exchange of information about room rates and occupancy, a ban on "unethical competition" and an end to all business that infringes "social and commercial ethics".

Though more than 60 star-rated hotels, mostly among the three-star category or lower, have yet to subscribe to the pledges, Lu Yuchang, the vice-mayor of Beijing, is confident the days of hotels being associated with corruption and prostitution are numbered.

He says: "Tourism has become a driving force promoting local economic development. Our city hotels paid 1.48 billion yuan [more than £100 million] in taxes last year. We cannot afford to let bad management or practices put that at risk."

Calais revamp brings chaos

By Alastair Steven

Heavy building equipment may delay motorists passing through Calais this summer as the terminal area is refurbished

DRIVERS disembarking from boats at Calais in the next few months had better prepare for savage delays. With a remarkable sense of timing, the Calais Port authority has decided to refurbish the terminal area totally — at the height of the tourist season.

"It's bureaucracy gone mad," claims Geoff Treble, of the Calais Chamber of Commerce. They have complained to the immigration authorities, who simply file their complaints in the pending file. The consequence of that bureaucracy will madden many British tourists this summer.

Cranes dominate the skyline, bulldozers are everywhere and tip-up trucks trundle around the concourse. The loading area and the lanes directing cars through passport control weave a merry route landing up on a slight incline with buses and cars revving as they chug through at less than walking pace.

It's not a happy sight and frustration was showing on the faces in the car alongside me as we waited on a recent Bank Holiday weekend. Two boats had just come in and the queues stretched for almost a mile. "It's so irritating," the driver moaned. "I have a house in the north and come through Calais often. Once I am off the boat, I want to get on with the journey."

There are delays on the concourse as cars are directed hither and thither. Lorries and buses cross the paths of unloading/loading vehicles and, inevitably, delays ensue.

But nothing to compare with the delay at Passport Control. P&O — the largest ferry operator on the Channel route — has made representations to the Calais Port Authority without success. "We have pressed again and again, and got nowhere," says Nick Stevens of P&O. "We are acutely aware of the situation. At the end of the day, the matter is in the hands of the immigration authorities."

Calais Port is administered by the Calais Chamber of Commerce for the French government. To their credit, they are spending huge sums on the modernisation of the port: hence the work currently being undertaken. But they don't have any say about how many officers man the passport control. "It's out of our hands." Treble sighs. "We have recently built, at a cost of £23 million, new booths and passport control cabins. All we can do is provide the facilities. If they don't man them there's nothing we can do. All we can get in reply is that there have been cutbacks in staff. They won't recruit extra staff as required."

The work being carried out on the concourse is a long-term project which will certainly disrupt traffic for the rest of the year. It will transform the port and separate the traffic flows on to two levels. This work — being financed by central government in Paris — will amount to around £30 million.

Competition for traffic across the Channel is intense. P&O, Stena and French Ferries all have cheap offers throughout the year to attract customers, as do the Hover, Seacat and Le Shuttle. All are desperate to sell you a ticket and then get you to open your wallets in their shops and restaurants. Everyone demands safety, but with such competition time is of the essence.

You can drive straight off the train at Calais (journey time through tunnel 35 minutes) and on to the autoroute in seconds. Total time (motorway to motorway) is around an hour. The Hover takes about 90 minutes for the same journey.

The boat is more complicated. It has a 75-minute crossing time and an unloading time of anything up to 30 minutes. It is at this point that boat passengers have to contend with this frustrating queue at passport control. Le Shuttle has passport control on leaving Folkestone, with no evidence of officers in France at all. By cutting out those two delays, the tunnel saves about 45 minutes. The Immigration Authorities in Calais appear to be doing their port and their tourist industry a great disservice.

Among our tacky souvenirs

By Harvey Elliott

DRINKS cabinets throughout Britain are bulging with strange-shaped bottles of foreign liqueurs that tasted good on holiday but will never be touched back home.

Two out of three holidaymakers, a new NOP survey finds, bring back bottles of drink that then gather dust, and sticky necks, in the back of the cupboard. And nine out of ten British tourists collect all manner of tacky souvenirs from ashtrays to dolls.

The survey of 1,000 people, for *Bella* magazine, revealed that no fewer than 93 per cent admitted to buying "frivolous" souvenirs abroad. Two out of three buy drinks, but almost as many go for "twee ceramics" which are seemingly made by talented "local craftsmen", says the survey.

Women went for ceramics, leather goods, cuddly toys and jewellery; men bought rough wine, silly hats, sunglasses and cigarettes. Still amazingly popular are a pair of castanets, an Eiffel Tower paperweight and a joke bottle of "holy air" from shops in Rome to Jerusalem.

The young go for local foods and inflatable animals because they are seen more as a fun item to remind them of their holiday. Middle-aged holidaymakers prefer local alcohol, leather purses and the kind of loud T-shirts they can get away with on the beach but not in the pub back home. The older, mature traveller likes to hunt down ponchos, saris, wood carvings and dolls in national dress.

Regional tastes also vary; people from the West Country are the most likely to bring back tacky souvenirs and East Anglians the least likely. Tourists from the North West were most likely to come back bearing gifts to do with smoking or drinking.

Jackie Highe, *Bella's* editor-in-chief, says the survey shows why so many foreign shopkeepers always seem so pleased to see the British: "They will be rubbing their hands in glee at the findings of this poll. It seems we love souvenirs, but will never learn that they look better in their native surroundings."

EMPTY IT HERE QUICKLY..... I SEE MORE ENGLISH COMING!
mosedale

Ferries drop fares for naturist boom

By Steve Keenan

NUDISTS are being offered discounts by a cross-Channel ferry firm wanting to cash in on a boom in holidays offering naked enjoyment.

Sea France is knocking 20 per cent off its published fares for the 20,000 members of the British Naturism Society. And operators to France are reporting heavy demand for nudist holidays, in line with a general upswing in cross-Channel travel this year.

Peng Travel, which specialises in nudist holidays, says that the most famous naturist resort, Cap d'Agde on the Riviera, is selling well, along with resorts in Languedoc-Roussillon and Aquitaine.

Heidi Englert, Peng's operations manager, says: "We are very pleased with our bookings. They are certainly up on previous years."

Tracey Major, general secretary of the Naturism Society — which has also negotiated discount rates with the breakdown service Green Flag and Gold Cover Insurance — says: "France has always been popular with our members. There are a lot of big resorts, and it is second only to Britain for naturist holidays.

"The French are more receptive to naturists than this country. We are a bit more puritanical."

The first-time Sea France offer is made in the summer editon of the society's quarterly magazine.

Michelle Andjel, a spokeswoman for the ferry company, says: "The discounts are valid until the end of the year. This is one of a number of promotions we have running.

"Nudists are as entitled as anybody else to go on holiday and we are delighted to have them on board — so long as they keep their clothes on."

Prague heads short-stay table

By Tony Dawe

PRAGUE has become the most popular European city for a short break holiday, according to one of the leading British tour companies.

The beautiful Czech city with its mixture of European cultures has overtaken Paris to claim the number one slot in the list of top-selling destinations for Eurobreak, part of the Inghams group.

Rival short break operators, Cresta Holidays and Crystal Cities, report that Paris still heads their lists with Dublin becoming an increasingly trendy destination. All the companies claim a substantial rise in summer bookings.

"People booking last minute breaks are trading up, choosing first class travel, luxury hotels and destinations further afield, all of which cost more than their usual short breaks," David Deane, who runs Eurobreak, says. "The trend indicates that building society windfalls are being used partly to fund the icing on the cake of a short break."

Eurobreak offers a wide choice of hotels in Prague with scheduled flights from Heathrow, Stansted and Manchester and prices ranging from £267 for two nights in a three-star hotel to £546 for two nights at the five-star Palace Hotel.

Jane Williams, Cresta's marketing manager, says that Paris maintains its top spot with the company because of the excellent hotel deals available in July and August when Parisians desert the city for their own holidays.

"Virtually all the hotels offer one night free so that three nights are available for the price of two," she says. The lead-in price for a three-night break is £134 with a choice of flights from six English airports.

Cresta also reports that Dublin is threatening to overtake Rome to claim third place in its top ten cities, after Paris and Amsterdam, and that Tallinn, the Estonian capital, is one of its surprise successes.

"Clients who are seasoned travellers are always looking to explore a different culture and history and Tallinn is like a miniature version of Prague but completely untouched," Miss Williams adds. "As for Dublin, it is really buzzing and has become the trendy place to spend a weekend."

● *The Eurobreak top-selling destinations are: 1, Prague; 2, Paris; 3, Barcelona; 4, Vienna; 5, Rome; 6, Amsterdam; 7, Bruges; 8, Venice; 9, Istanbul; 10, Budapest.*

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

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A weekend break in Brussels
Susan McDonald on the port trail
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FOOTBALL: CHELSEA EXPAND OVERSEAS CONTINGENT WITH EXPERIENCED HOLLAND GOALKEEPER

Gullit goes Dutch at cost of £2.25m

By Russell Kempson

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

Venables, the Australia coach, savoured success on the field, where his team recorded a 13-0 World Cup victory, and off it yesterday

RUUD GULLIT, the Chelsea player-manager, has again shopped abroad to strengthen their challenge for the FA Carling Premiership and Cup Winners' Cup next season. Yesterday he signed Ed de Goey, the Holland and Feyenoord goalkeeper, for £2.25 million.

De Goey, 30, has won 29 caps for Holland and played in their five matches in the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States, in which they eventually lost 3-2 against Brazil in the quarter-finals. Though he has since lost his place to Edwin van der Sar, of Ajax, he is still considered the Dutch No 2.

He played in Holland's international match in South Africa recently, which they won 2-0. Gullit also attended the game — he had travelled to receive an honour from Nelson Mandela, the South Africa president — and a deal to bring De Goey to Stamford Bridge, where he will join the likes of Zola, Di Matteo and Leboeuf, was swiftly struck.

His arrival is likely to signal the departure of at least one of Chelsea's four other professional goalkeepers, Dmitri Kharine, Frode Grodas, Kevin Hitchcock and Nick Colgan. "I've had seven years at Feyenoord but Ruud has made a decision he wants me at Chelsea and I now hope to do my best for them," De Goey, who started his career with Sparta Rotterdam, said.

"This is a dream move. Several Dutch and Spanish clubs have shown an interest in me, but when I knew Ruud wanted me there was only one club for me. The prospect of playing in England with a big club like Chelsea really excites me."

Terry Venables, the former England coach, was yesterday cleared of any impropriety over the prospective moves of three Australian players to Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division club of which he is chairman. Venables, now the Australia coach, had been accused of conflict of interest when he recommended Zeljko Kalac and Robert Enes, the Sydney United players, and Hamilton Thorp, of West Adelaide, to Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager.

Several clubs were angered by Venables's role, but David Hill, the chairman of Soccer Australia, the country's governing body, said that there was no case to answer. "Terry has done nothing that contravenes our rules," Hill said. "When we negotiated his contract, he asked if his interest in Portsmouth was a problem and we said no. He is allowed to pursue outside interests."

Venables, though, is barred from direct involvement in the transfers. Fenwick, who is in Australia recruiting players, will have to conduct negotiations with Kalac, the former Leicester City goalkeeper, Enes and Thorp. He was first alerted to the players' abilities by watching them on videos, which Venables is believed to have supplied.

"This has worked out more or less as I thought it would," Venables said yesterday. "If you look at the chairmen of other clubs, they've all got other businesses. Well, my business is football."

Venables experienced no such complications as Australia demolished the Solomon Islands 13-0 in their opening World Cup qualifying match, in the Oceania zone second round group one, in Sydney. Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, completed the rout by scoring a last-minute penalty. Australia should qualify from their three-team round-robin group, which also includes Tahiti, to meet New Zealand, who are expected to win Oceania group two. The winners then take on the fourth-placed team from the Asia zone, over two legs, to determine who goes on to the finals in France next year.

Tommy Burns, the former Celtic manager, has to decide between taking over at Reading, the Nationwide League first division club, or accepting a youth development job under Kenny Dalglish at Newcastle United.

Burns is reported to have been offered £150,000 a year to join Reading, a year before the club moves out of Elm Park to a new stadium that will cost £37 million.

John Madejski, the Reading chairman, has sifted through the credentials of 70 applicants since Mick Gooding and Jimmy Quinn, the joint player-managers, left the club by mutual consent last month. Burns travelled from his home in Scotland last week to be interviewed by Madejski and was also believed to be interested in a similar vacancy at Stoke City, which was created by the departure of Lou Macari at the end of last season.

GOLF

Johnson to make first appearance

TRISH JOHNSON makes her first appearance in Europe since winning the French Open women's title last October when the Swiss Open begins in Lausanne today. Three other members of last year's Solheim Cup side, Dale Reid of Scotland and English pair of Alison Nicholas and Joanne Morley, will also make their seasonal debut.

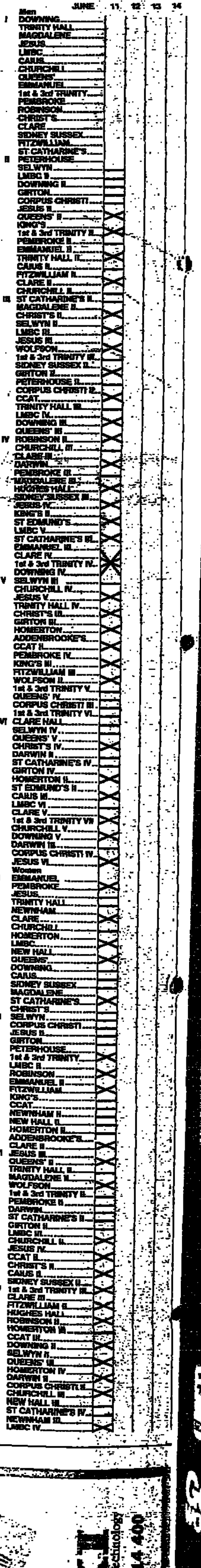
The field of 125 is the strongest of the season to date even though each of the entries were given the option of withdrawing from the event without facing a fine because of the condition of the greens following a severe winter.

"Algae in the soil killed large areas of the greens, affecting between 45 and 70 per cent of every surface," David Rollo, head of the tour's tournament operations, said.

Sweden's Sophie Gustafsen is defending her title with Australian Karen Lunn, winner of the Tour Players' title last month, and England's Mandy Sutton, winner of the Estoril Open, among her challengers.

ROWING

Early positions in the Cambridge University May rowing Races



Graham presses on with double signing

By David Maddock

GEORGE GRAHAM will unveil the first blocks of his Elland Road rebuilding programme today when he announces two new signings. The Leeds United manager has called a press conference to unveil Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Alf Inge Haaland.

Hasselbaink has been signed from Boavista, of Portugal, for £2 million and will fly in after playing in the Portuguese Cup final on Tuesday evening. The centre forward, 25, has scored 27 goals this season, only one fewer than Leeds managed in the FA Carling Premiership between them.

Haaland's fee is subject to a tribunal after the Norway international's contract with Nottingham Forest expired, but Graham is still hoping that his club can extend the Bosman ruling to allow the midfield player to move on a free transfer.

Manchester United have not experienced as much luck in their pursuit of new players. Yesterday, Brian Laudrup, the Denmark international forward, revealed that he would, after all, be staying with Rangers in Scotland. Laudrup, 28, was reported to have agreed to join United, but after talks with David Murray, the Rangers chairman, he said: "After positive talks I've decided to complete my existing contract. Next season is a very important one for the club and I'm hoping we will do well."

There was one crumb of comfort for Martin Edwards, the United chairman, yesterday. Talks with Markus Babbel, the Germany international, resumed after a hitch over personal terms. United are still confident of bringing the Bayern Munich central defender to Old Trafford.

Paul Ince will decide within the next week if he is to return to the Premiership. The England international midfield player will travel with Internazionale on a Far East tour before reaching a decision on his future.

Martin Taylor, the Derby County goalkeeper, has joined Wycombe Wanderers, of the Nationwide League second division, on a free transfer. Taylor, 30, had become Derby's third choice behind Russell Hoult and Mart Poom, the Estonia international.

Summer sales reach new pitch

BRIAN GLANVILLE

Overseas Football

Transfers in turmoil, markets gone mad ... it is hard to keep up with, let alone make sense of, much of what is happening in the wheeling and dealing in football this summer.

Juventus seem to be subscribing to Hannah Arendt's theme of creative destruction — knocked down the better to build up — after their defeat in the European Cup final and the grotesque £50 million saga of Ronaldo's proposed transfer from Barcelona to Internazionale looms over the market like a thundercloud.

Meanwhile, a new market has emerged as powerful clubs attempt to prise young talent from the teams that have developed it. Arsenal, so badly in need of a midfield creator, have bought two French defenders instead and pursued Marc Overmars, the Dutch winger, though they also tried to buy Moussa Saib, the clever Auxerre midfield player, who preferred Valencia. And what will happen to Daniele Dichio when he joins Sampdoria? In his junior years with Queens Park Rangers, Dichio, whose father is Italian, longed to play in Italy. Their style attracted him far more than that in England but, by an irony, he grew into a typical English centre forward: tall, powerful and dangerous in the air.

Sampdoria's new manager, however, is Cesar Menotti, a former World Cup winner with Argentina, whose priorities are essentially Latin. The club has lost its icon, Roberto Mancini, to Lazio, but Vincenzo Montella, scorer of 22 league goals this season, remains. He might well have found Dichio a useful partner, but now Sampdoria have bought the incomparable Jürgen Klinsmann. Menotti is expected to engage his Argentine protégé, Calderon, another striker, so Dichio will probably spend much time on the bench.

Juventus have sold Alen Boksic, their Croatian striker, back to Lazio after just one season, with a £1 million profit. The departure of Lazio's dour Czech coach, Zdenek Zeman, and the arrival from Sampdoria of Sven Goran Eriksson, means that Boksic will not now be banished to the left flank.

Juve, in turn, have bought the championship's top scorer, "Pippo" Inzaghi, from Atalanta. As for Inter, who surely need central defenders rather than strikers they now have a plethora of centre forwards: Branca, Zamorano and the prolific Ganz.

Two experienced Italian defenders, Lorenzo Amoruso, of Fiorentina, and Sergio Porrini, of Juventus, have entered the Sargasso Sea of the Scottish league with Rangers, who had previously grabbed the 19-year-old midfield player, Gennaro Gattuso, from Perugia, for nothing.

Now another of Perugia's youngsters, Luigi Riccio, 20, has reportedly jumped ship to go to Everton. The trend began in England when Arsenal persuaded the precocious 18-year-old, Nicolas Anelka, to join them from Paris Saint-Germain. Juventus, however, have been left with egg on their face by their attempt to secure two other gifted young players from France for nothing. They were so sure of prising the remarkable 17-year-old goalkeeper, Sebastian Frey, from Cannes, that they actually paraded him in Turin. Fiorentina nipped in, though, did a deal with Cannes and now Frey will go to Florence.

Similarly, the highly promising 19-year-old defender, Sliou Lassisi, of Rennes, born in the Ivory Coast, will now be joining Parma, instead of Juventus, for a fee. Juve have consoled themselves by paying money to Auxerre for the Nigerian stopper, Taibo West, plus the lively midfield player, Fabio Pecchia, 23, from Napoli, who will replace Jugovic.

Arsenal bring two defenders from AS Monaco, the former club of their manager, Arsène Wenger, who developed them both. Each is 26. Emmanuel Petit can play centre back, left back or left midfield, while Gilles Grimandi is a competent centre back. AC Milan, however, beat Arsenal to sign Ibrahim Ba, the right winger who tormented Brazil in the Tournoi de France.

SAILING: BRITISH PAIR LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO END FRENCH DOMINATION OF TRANSATLANTIC RACE

MacArthur relishes singular test of ocean skills

Edward Gorman on the eagerness of two sailors to compete in one of the sport's most gruelling events

Mark Turner and Ellen MacArthur's twin assault on one of the toughest tests in single-handed ocean racing began in earnest yesterday with the formal launch of their Mini-Transat campaigns at the UK Sailing Academy in Cowes.

It has been a long, hard struggle for both to raise the money they need for the race, and indeed they are still looking for half of their combined budget of £50,000, but both will definitely be on the start line in France on September 28th.

Turner has support from the Isle of Wight Council and the mobile phone company Carphone Warehouse, who will be his title sponsor. MacArthur's yacht, *Le Poisson*, is still short of a title sponsor but she remains hopeful that a deal will be done in the coming weeks to enable her to complete the campaign on more than a shoestring.

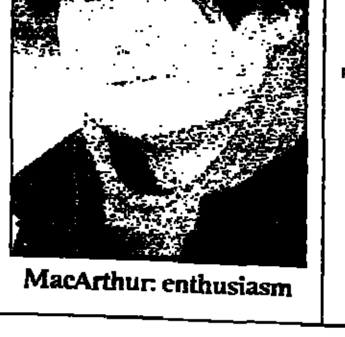
Yesterday, MacArthur's enthusiasm for the enormous task she has set herself, at the age of only 20, came through loud and clear. "I can't believe I am here with a boat at last," she said. "It means so much to have all these people here. It's been such a hard fight to get this far and it's not over yet."

The Mini-Transat was originally a British race, created in 1977 by Bob Salmon. But in recent years it has become dominated by the French, for whom it has been a breeding ground for many of their most successful solo yachtsmen and women.

The race is sailed in so-called "Minis", an open class of 21-foot speed machines which are baby versions of the Open 60s developed for the Vendée Globe and the BOC races. The boats combine a huge sail area — bigger for example than many 30-foot racing yachts — with swing keels or water ballast, asymmetric foils and three-metre rotating bowsprites.

The race, which will see up to 50 skippers on the start line, including a third Briton, Peter Heppel who is building a new boat in France, is a gruelling test of stamina, racing ability and seamanship. It starts from Brest with a 1,200-mile leg to the Canaries. After a two-week stopover, the second leg is a 3,000-mile marathon across the Atlantic to Martinique. In past races more than one in seven of the skippers have failed to complete the course and several have been lost.

MacArthur's unlimited energy could propel her to the very top of this form of sailing. She made her name by becoming the youngest person to sail around Britain and has the technical ability and mental toughness which the Mini-Transat requires. Turner has 12 years of off-shore campaigns behind him, including a Whitbread in 1989 and a two-handed transatlantic in 1994, andthere is no reason why he should not finish in the top ten.



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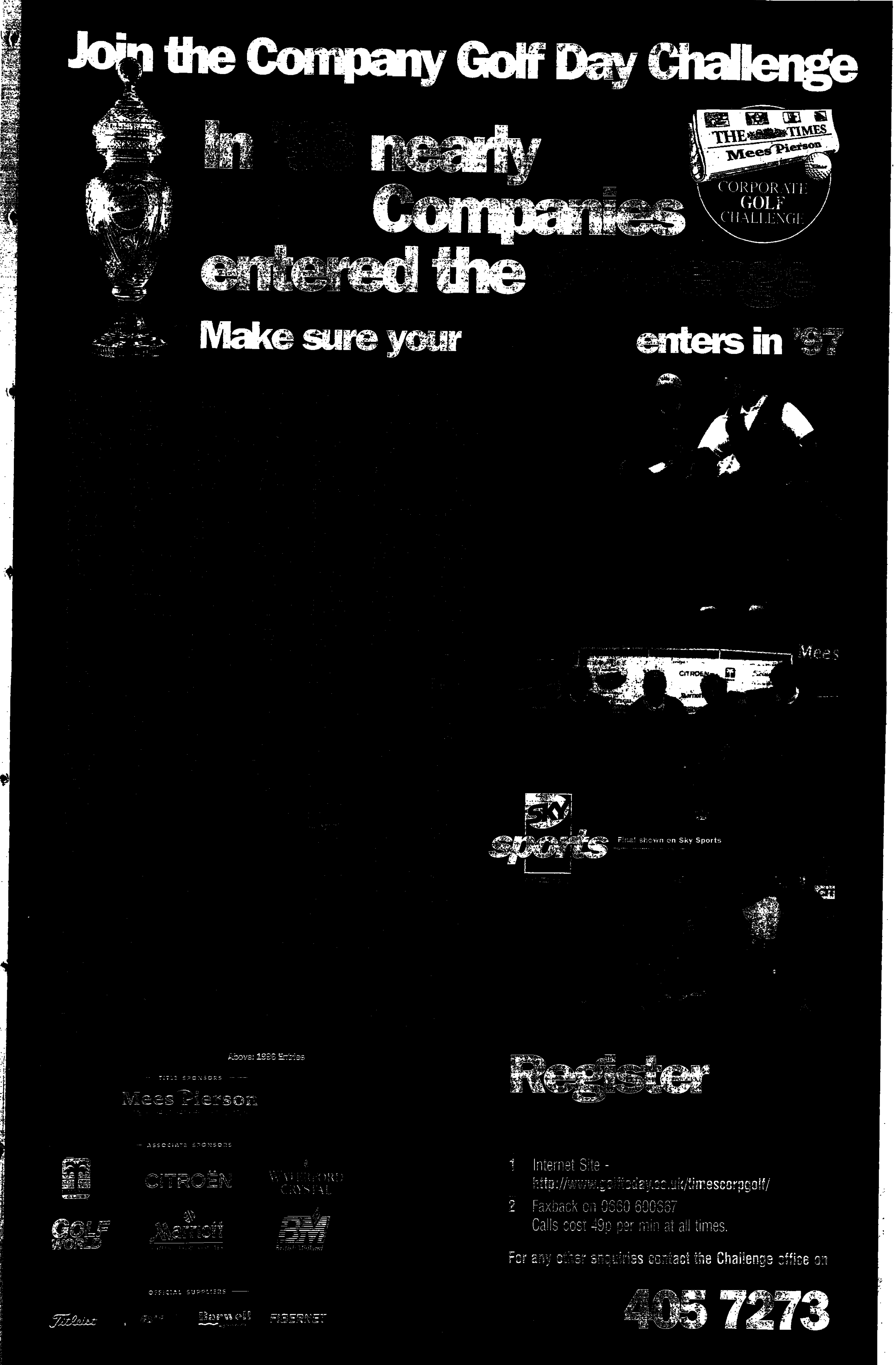

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Mahdi adds spice to Newmarket's cosmopolitan flavour

Chris McGrath meets a Kuwaiti trainer

blending into his new headquarters

Racing in Britain is often dismissed as hidebound, introverted and suspicious. At Royal Ascot next week, for instance, we will turn out — pink-faced and perspiring — in top hat and tails, a legitimating badge pinned to our lapels.

But the caricature is not entirely fair. At worst, racing in this country assimilates the outsider, sooner than actually embracing him. Should the Maktoum brothers greet an Ascot winner, we can duly look forward to the spectacle of the Arab entourage, sombre and gravel-toned, crowding into the winner's enclosure in their morning suits.

In truth, it is a sport of vigorously cosmopolitan flavour — and fresh variegation arrives in the person of Kamil Mahdi, former champion trainer of Kuwait, who runs Almushtarak in the Cork and Orrery Stakes next Thursday. Mahdi, 48, saddled over 400 winners on sand in his homeland, but has succumbed to the allure of the sport in a rather more green and pleasant guise.

His admiration for British racing, indeed, appears to be matched only by that he appears to feel for his own prospects in it. But then it is difficult to argue otherwise, on the limited evidence available.

Last Thursday, on the eve of the Oaks at Epsom, the planting of a little acorn at Yarmouth was understandably neglected. Neglected, one might add, to the tune of 20-1. That was the starting price of Zugudi, Mahdi's first runner from his new base, the 40-box Green Ridge Stables in Newmarket. Gleaming for his first outing in eight months, the colt won a handicap by threequarters of a length.

On Saturday, Mahdi was off to Epsom himself. Almushtarak, fourth in the Jersey Stakes at last year's royal meeting for Gay Kelleway, was his second runner, in the Diomed Stakes. After rotten luck in running, the 33-1 shot was beaten less than four lengths into fifth.

"He nearly fell at Tattenham Corner and was struck into by Faithful Son," Mahdi said. "He returned with three legs bleeding, very nasty cuts. It was his first run in ten months, so I hope he will improve at Ascot.

"I know the Cork and Orrery is six furlongs, and that may be a bit short. But I think you should be able to train a horse to win over six furlongs and a mile and a quarter in the same season. Horses have speed and stamina, it is the job of the trainer to find what he needs."

He continued: "Everyone can get horses fit. It is not the trainer's job to get them fit. It is to teach them how to be a racehorse. Each one needs special treatment. And a hard job becomes harder if there is something missing when they become fit. You have to keep them at that level, and that is when they are most sensitive."

It is, of course, sharing lore and love of the horse that forges such unexpected bonds between different racing cultures — exemplified by the pioneers of Godolphin, who winter horses in the Dubai desert before restoring them to the sweet, damp turf of Britain in the spring. Mahdi reasons that it does not matter where you train; what matters is your instinct.

"Horses everywhere are the same, in that they are all different, all individuals. I have owned horses since I was ten, when I insisted my father let me have one of my own, and I started training them at 22. It is in my nature as an Arab that I love them as animals, not for business or commercial purposes.

"We just want to be with them all the time; they are our life. Horses, not dogs, are the closest to man. They have proved in the United States that the horse understands 100 different words. Horses are clever, faithful, honest and beautiful."

It is an obsession that has quickly blended Mahdi into the eccentric Newmarket neighbourhood, probably far better than any reasonably balanced British newcomer. "This is the best racing in the world and I don't feel a foreigner here. I feel safer and secure, after the crisis in 1990 when all the horses in Kuwait were being killed or stolen."

He concluded: "I have 28 here already and, now that I have my licence, I will get more from my friends in Kuwait. I need time to gain more knowledge of the various tracks. But we will build and build. I think this yard will be here forever."

Bogus bookmaker, page 5

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: The Faraway Tree
(3.30 Newbury)

Next best: Geimhriuil
(4.10 Goodwood)

GEOFF ROBINSON

Mahdi parades with his 20-1 Yarmouth winner, Zugudi, at Green Ridge Stables

Weekend test for champion stayer

CHAMPION stayer Classic Cliche must prove himself in a weekend gallop at Newmarket if he is to earn the chance to defend his Gold Cup crown at Royal Ascot next Thursday.

The five-year-old is among a provisional list of ten horses likely to line up for Godolphin at the royal meeting.

Racing manager, Simon Crisford, named a probable first-day line up of Allied Forces in the Queen Anne Stakes, Alhaarth (Prince of Wales's) and Swiss Law (Britannia Handicap).

On Wednesday Kahal could contest the Jersey Stakes, Asfurah (Queen Mary Stakes), Ocean Ridge and or Moonlight Paradise (Coronation Stakes).

Classic Cliche (Gold Cup) and Blue Duster (Cork And Orrery) are the Thursday contenders with Predappio contesting Friday's Hardwicke Stakes.

☐ Blue Goblin misses Saturday's William Hill Trophy at York and runs instead in the Cork And Orrery at Royal Ascot.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Salisbury

Going: good to firm

2.20 (5f) 1. **DESERT LADY** (T Sprake, 2-1 fav); 2. **Universal Lady** (J Reid, 10-1); 3. **Midsummer Night** (Dane O'Neill, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Dodo (5th), 10 Kavaldi (4th), Robin Lane (6th), 33 Saligo, 50 Jonathan's Girl. 8 ran. NR Sabre Girl. ¾l, ¾l, nk, 1½l, 4l. R Charlton at Beckhampton. Tote £3.30; £1.50, £1.60, £1.70. DF £7.70. Trio £27.30. CSF £20.30.

2.50 (5f) 1. **BARRANAK** (C Rutter, 6-1); 2. **Lucky Dip** (J Reid, 6-1); 3. **High Domain** (S Drowne, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Ned's Bonanza, 7 Friendly Brave (5th), 10 Littlestone Rocket (4th), The Fugative, 12 Chief's Lady, 14 Macgillycuddy (6th), 20 Sharp Stock, 33 Parchance To Dream, Red Time. 12 ran. 3l, hd, nk, 1½l, 1½l. G McCourt at Wantage. Tote £9.30; £2.50, £1.70, £3.90. DF £18.20. Trio £56.70. CSF £36.96. Tricast £354.98.

3.20 (6f 212yd) 1. **SILVER LINING** (Mr J Goldstein, 20-1); 2. **Sharp Imp** (Mr T McCarthy, 9-2 fav); 3. **Morocco** (Mr R Thornton, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Delight Of Dawn, 7 Mr Nevermind, 7 Pointer (6th), 7 White Settler (5th), 8 Havago, 10 Justinianus (4th), 25 Calandrella.

3.50 (1m 6f) 1. **WINTER GARDEN** (L Dettori, 2-7 fav, **Private Handicapper's top rating**); 2. **Tycooness** (J Fanning, 10-1); 3. **Fletcher** (R Hughes, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Tikopia (4th), 50 Foleys Quest (5th). 5 ran. 1l, ¾l, 6l, 6l. L Cumani at Newmarket. Tote £1.30; £1.10, £2.30. DF £5.10. CSF £4.19.

4.20 (6f 212yd) 1. **MR SPONGE** (L Dettori, 8-11 fav, **Richard Evans's nap**); 2. **Khafaaq** (T Sprake, 5-2); 3. **Eliza** (Pat Eddery, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 12 Meilleur (5th), Verdi (4th), 16 Balladara, Girko, 66 Hildee Boy, Over The Moon, Shades Of Love (6th). 10 ran. 5l, 1¾l, 2½l, sh hd, 5l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote £2.00; £1.30, £1.20, £3.10. DF £2.30. Trio £11.20. CSF £2.51.

4.50 (1m 1f 209yd) 1. **LOMBERTO** (C Rutter, 50-1); 2. **Scoss** (Pat Eddery, 11-4); 3. **Motet** (M Hills, 2-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Love Has No Pride (4th), Medieval Lady, 14 Bullfinch (6th), 50 Carlys Quest (5th). 7 ran. Nk, nk, 3l, nk, 9l. V Soane at Aston Rowant. Tote £56.40; £6.50, £1.80. DF £104.40. CSF £168.73.

Placepot: £24.90. **Quadpot:** £3.60.

Yarmouth

Going: firm

2.10 (1m 6f 17yd) 1. **AURELIAN** (M Fenton, 9-2, **Newmarket Correspondent's nap**); 2. **Ginger Rogers** (33-1); 3. **Epomine** (9-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Krosno, 25 Golden Melody (4th). 10 ran. ¾l, ¾l. M Bell. Tote £7.90; £1.90, £6.40, £2.60. DF £91.80. Trio £136.40. CSF £129.82. Tricast £1,165.52.

2.40 (6f 3yd) 1. **SHAWDON** (S Sanders, 2-7 fav); 2. **Jus'chillin'** (20-1); 3. **Up The Wall** (25-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Great Melody (4th). 5 ran. 4l, 3l. M Prescott. Tote £1.10; £1.10, £3.10. DF £3.90. CSF £8.33.

3.10 (6f 3yd) 1. **HATTAB** (D Holland, 6-4 jt-fav); 2. **Venture Capitalist** (6-4 jt-fav); 3. **Johnny Staccato** (3-1). ALSO RAN: 50 Spanish Stripper (4th). 4 ran. 7l, ¾l. P Walwyn. Tote £2.20. DF £1.50. CSF £3.60.

3.40 (7f 3yd) 1. **SICK AS A PARROT** (J Stack, 5-1); 2. **Lasham** (Evens fav); 3. **Calliram** (4-1). ALSO RAN: 33 Tinos Island (4th). 7 ran. 1l, 1½l. C Dwyer. Tote £4.90; £1.30, £1.50. DF £4.00. CSF £8.73. No bid.

4.10 (6f 3yd) 1. **DON PEPE** (K Fallon, 13-2); 2. **Prima Silk** (9-2); 3. **Double Oscar** (9-2). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Rambold, 9-2 Bright Paragon (4th). 8 ran. ¾l, ¾l. R Boss. Tote £5.20; £1.50, £1.50, £1.20. DF £13.10. CSF £34.18. Tricast £136.48.

4.40 (7f 3yd) 1. **TOPATORI** (D Biggs, 11-4); 2. **Moon Fairy** (11-1); 3. **Trihcar** (11-4). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Sharpwitted (4th). 7 ran. ¾l, 1l. M Tompkins. Tote £8.50; £1.60, £4.30. DF £36.50. CSF £28.41. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

5.10 (1m 2f 21yd) 1. **TOP JEM** (G Bardwell, 7-2); 2. **Cheek To Cheek** (12-1); 3. **Poker Princess** (8-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Princess Of Hearts (5th), 11-2 Top Shelf (4th). 9 ran. NR Rock.Il Rosie. Sh hd, ¾l. M Ryan. Tote £4.50; £1.50, £3.00, £2.70. DF £38.80. Trio £166.30. CSF £41.71. Tricast £289.96. After a stewards' inquiry result stood.

Placepot: £518.20. **Quadpot:** £70.50.

Beverley

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.00 (5f) 1. **SUNSET HARBOUR** (R Ffrench, 9-1); 2. **Pathaze** (L Charnock, 20-1); 3. **Dominelle** (J Carroll, 9-1); 4. **Pharaoh's Joy** (K Darley, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Oatey, 8 Time To Tango, 10 Premium Gift (5th), 11 Mystical, 14 Amoeba (6th), Tart And A Half, 16 Ohnonotagain, 20 Caspian Morn, Sarabi, Supertrills, 33 Bent Raiwand, Oh Whataknight, Rotherfield Park. 17 ran. Sh hd, hd, 1¾l, hd, ¾l. S Kettlewell at Middleham. Tote £11.40; £2.40, £3.90, £2.30, £1.90. DF £72.70. Trio £430.70 (part won; pool of £181.99 carried forward to 5.00 at Newbury today). CSF £177.42. Tricast £1,603.08.

2.30 (5f) 1. **PENNILESS** (Kim Tinkler, 7-1); 2. **Sandy Shore** (J Carroll, 11-1); 3. **Ellenbrook** (P Fessey, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Mister Bankes (6th), 6 Bow Peep (4th), 9 Inchalong (5th), 16 Miss Beveled, Tancred Times, 20 Wynbury Flyer, 25 Are Yer There, Hayburner. 11 ran. ¾l, nk, 1½l, hd, 1¾l. N Tinkler at Malton. Tote £7.80; £3.00, £2.30, £1.70. DF £44.20. Trio £43.80. CSF £80.46.

3.00 (7f 100yd) 1. **DEE PEE TEE CEE** (T Lucas, 13-2); 2. **Duke Valentino** (D Griffiths, 25-1); 3. **Reinhardt** (Iona Wands, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Euro Sceptic (4th), 7 Shontaine, 15-2 Rymer's Rascal, 9 Dawalib (pu), 10 Cee-Jay-Ay, Surf City, 11 Desert Cat, 12 Oriel Lad (6th), 14 Sandblaster (5th), 20 Roseale Lodge, 25 Perilous Plight. 14 ran. 2l, 1¾l, 1¾l, hd, 1¾l. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Tote £9.30; £2.60, £7.10, £2.40. DF £124.20. Trio £543.50. CSF £163.69. Tricast £1,056.47.

3.30 (1m 1f 207yd) 1. **FLYING NORTH** (A Culhane, 4-1); 2. **Askern** (L Charnock, 11-2); 3. **Gold Desire** (J Lowe, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Mr Teigh (5th), 9 Bandore (4th), 12 Prospector's Cove (6th). 6 ran. 8l, 2½l, 14l, 12l, 1l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote £5.20; £1.80, £2.90. DF £21.80. CSF £22.89.

4.00 (1m 3f 216yd) 1. **INFATUATION** (K Darley, 9-4 fav); 2. **Road Racer** (J Fortune, 3-1); 3. **Augustan** (J Weaver, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Express Gift (4th), 16 Swiftway (5th). 5 ran. 2½l, nk, 4l, 3l. Lady Herries at Littlehampton. Tote £3.10; £1.70, £1.80. DF £6.60. CSF £8.96.

4.30 (1m 100yd) 1. **NERONIAN** (J Carroll, 6-4 fav); 2. **Get The Point** (F Lynch, 4-1); 3. **Freedom Chance** (M Henry, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Stellar Line (4th), 5 Raed (5th). 5 ran. 1¾l, ¾l, ¾l, 2½l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote £2.50; £1.60, £2.00. DF £4.10. CSF £7.69.

5.00 (7f 100yd) 1. **PRIMA VERDE** (K Darley, 5-2); 2. **Impetus** (J Lowe, 33-1); 3. **Taragona** (F Lynch, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4-5 fav Round Robin (6th), 10 Storyteller (4th), 14 Forest Signal, 20 Quaint Desire (5th), 50 Rush Me Not. 8 ran. NR Rotor Man. 8l, nk, 2l, 3l, 1¾l. L Cumani at Newmarket. Tote £3.70; £1.60, £2.80, £2.30. DF £63.80. Trio £156.50. CSF £74.37.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £41,772.82 carried forward to Newbury today).

Placepot: £543.70. **Quadpot:** £56.40.

Mr Sponge serves up birthday treat

IAN BALDING, the Kingsclere trainer, was all smiles at Salisbury yesterday when Mr Sponge gave loyal patron Paul Mellon a ninetieth birthday present with success in the Fonthill Stud & Summerdown Stables Maiden Stakes.

"That gives me immense pleasure as it meant a lot to us," Balding said. "Hopefully Mr Mellon will have been watching the race on SIS at his Virginia base in the States.

"As owners come and go, he's incredible. I am the third generation to train for him and hopefully he will be around long enough for my son Andrew to make it four in a few years' time." Mellon had his most famous moment in 1971 when Mill Reef, trained by Balding, won the Derby.

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NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Deterrent
2.30 Trans Island
3.00 **NEUWEST** (nap)
3.30 Flamboyance
4.00 Blewbury Hill
4.30 Highly Prized
5.00 Mr Rough

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 E B F KENNETT MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,864: 6f 8yd) (18 runners)

101	(7)		APPYABO (M Gunn) M Channon 9-0	R Painter	–
102	(16)	20	CAVERSFIELD 19 (W Kelly) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	–
103	(1)		CHIEF CASHIER (Surgical Spirits) G Balding 9-0	S Drowne	–
104	(9)		CLASSIC MANOEUVRE (P Green) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	–
105	(13)		COMMANDER CHARLIE (D Watson) I Balding 9-0	R Cochrane	–
106	(11)		DETERRENT (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	–
107	(15)		ELAKIK (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0	K Darley	–
108	(3)		FAIR GAME (Mrs D Snowden) J Dunlop 9-0	A Clark	–
109	(8)		FREE (F Salman) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	–
110	(17)		GRINKOV (R Dobson & Ptns) H Morrison 9-0	D Harrison	–
111	(2)		GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY (Abigail Ltd) M Fetherston-Godley 9-0	A McGlone	–
112	(5)	26U	KENNET 15 (Miss M Fraser) P Cundell 9-0	R Perham	–
113	(12)		MAZBOON (H al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	K Fallon	–
114	(18)		SADIR (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 9-0	S Whitworth	–
115	(10)		SHANNON'S SECRET (Mrs S Tucker) B Meehan 9-0	B Doyle	–
116	(14)		STARMAKER (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	Pat Eddery	–
117	(4)		TOP MAITE (Top Maite Ptns) A Foster 9-0	A Whelan (3)	–
118	(6)		SILVER STRAND (Miss C McIntyre) B Hills 8-9	M Hills	–

BETTING: 4-1 Starmaker, 9-2 Deterrent, 13-2 Free, 10-1 Classic Manoeuvre, 12-1 Commander Charlie, Elakik, Fair Game, 16-1 others

1996: OCEAN RIDGE 8-9 J Reid (6-4 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

CAVERSFIELD 5l 2nd of 6 to Dim Ots in novice stakes at Bath (5f, good to soft). CLASSIC MANOEUVRE (foaled Feb 14, cost $110,000) second foal, dam twice-raced here, later sprint winner in USA. DETERRENT (Apr 14, 160,000gns) first foal; dam, half sister to smart sprinter Lugana Beach, 1m 2f winner. FREE (Apr 24, $45,000) half brother to 6f juvenile winner Dismissed and Jet Ski Lady, Oaks winner; dam very smart 1m ½f and 1m 1f juvenile graded winner in North America. KENNET 2½l 2nd of 8 to Mujara in novice stakes here (5f, good to firm). MAZBOON (Jan 17, $130,000) fourth foal; dam of little account.
No selection

2.30 KINGSCLERE CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £6,011: 6f 8yd) (6 runners)

201	(6)	3	LIDO 8 (BF) (G Reed) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	79
202	(5)	2	TRANS ISLAND 12 (Al Muallim Ptns) I Balding 9-0	K Darley	[illegible]
203	(4)		CLERMONT CITY (Miss F Feeley) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	Pat Eddery	–
204	(3)		HUNTSWOOD (Mrs D Cock) R Hannon 8-11	Dane O'Neill	–
205	(2)		TUMBLEWEED HERO (Tumbleweed Ptns) B Meehan 8-11	M Tebbutt	–
206	(1)	60	RAAZI 10 (A Nemazee) R Stronge 8-9	K Fallon	–

BETTING: 13-8 Clermont City, 9-4 Trans Island, 4-1 Huntswood, 7-1 Lido, 8-1 Tumbleweed Hero, 20-1 Raazi.

1996: FUN GALORE 8-11 M Hills (7-1) B Hills 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

LIDO 5¼l 3rd of 9 to Tippitt Boy in auction novice at Warwick (5f, firm). TRANS ISLAND 2l 2nd of 12 to Cape Verdi in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). CLERMONT CITY (foaled Apr 30, cost 20,000gns) closely related to Dahsana, middle distance winner in France; dam 1m winner. HUNTSWOOD (May 9, 18,500gns) brother to useful 7f juvenile winner Inchar and half brother to Formal Invitation, 1m 2-4f winner; dam, half-sister to high class Teenoso, stayed 1m 2f. TUMBLEWEED HERO (Feb 16, 38,000gns) half-brother to several winners including smart pair My Memoirs and Patriarch; dam 7f juvenile winner. RAAZI 13l 10th of 12 to Affigha in novice stakes at Windsor (5f, good to firm).
Selection: TRANS ISLAND

3.00 GEORGE SMITH MEMORIAL RATED HANDICAP
(£7,394: 7f str) (8 runners)

301	(3)	020-55	EVERGLADES 23 (CD,F,G) ([illegible]) R Charlton 9-9-7	Pat Eddery	95
302	(7)	00000-	DESERT GREEN 168J (F) ([illegible]) R Hannon 8-9-3	Dane O'Neill	89
303	(1)	11145-	DIVINA LUNA 257 (D,F,G) (D Deer) J Hills 4-8-13	M Henry (3)	90
304	(8)	1-0002	PERSIAN FAYRE 19 (D,F,G) ([illegible]) J Berry 5-8-11	K Darley	94
305	(6)	10-020	NEUWEST 43 (D,F) (P Green) R Akehurst 5-8-10	L Dettori	[illegible]
306	(5)	1163-6	ALAMEIN 82 (D,F,G) (H De Kwiatkowski) W Haggas 4-8-12	K Fallon	96
307	(2)	140-0	VOLLEY 23 (F) (R Villiers) D Chappell 4-8-5	D Harrison	90
308	(4)	6314-	TRAILBLAZER 180 (G) (G Reed) C Thornton 3-7-12	R Mullen (5)	91

BETTING: 2-1 Divina Luna, 4-1 Neuwest, 9-2 Persian Fayre, 6-1 Alamein, 7-1 Trailblazer, 8-1 Everglades, 20-1 Volley, 25-1 Desert Green

1996: EVERGLADES 8-9-5 Pat Eddery (9-2) R Charlton 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

DIVINA LUNA about 4½l 5th of 16 to Fatefully in listed handicap at Ascot (1m, good to firm) Sep 96. PERSIAN FAYRE head 2nd of 8 to Waypoint in handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to firm). NEUWEST ½l 2nd of 8 to Barbaroja in handicap at Brighton (7f, firm). ALAMEIN about 4½l 6th of 24 to Kuala Lipis in the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) Mar 97. VOLLEY about 2½l 4th of 9 to [illegible] at Newmarket (6f, good) Nov 96. TRAILBLAZER beat Cee-N-K 2l in 12-runner auction maiden at Wolverhampton (6f, AW) Nov 95.
Selection: PERSIAN FAYRE (nap)

3.30 BALLYMACOLL STUD STAKES
(Listed: 3-Y-O: £11,795: 1m 2f 6yd) (10 runners)

401	(2)	21-100	CALYPSO GRANT 30 (G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris [illegible]	N Day	[illegible]
402	(10)	21-43	APACHE STAR 36 (S) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-9	M Hills	81
403	(4)	53-15	DUST DANCER 22 (F) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 8-9	B Doyle	84
404	(7)	12	FLAMBOYANCE 43 (G) (C Wills) J Fanshawe 8-9	D Harrison	96
405	(5)	0-1	MAROULLA 12 (F) (A Christodoulou) [illegible] 8-9	Pat Eddery	90
406	(6)	1-2	PRIENA 22 (F) (Cuadra Africa) D Loder 8-9	K Darley	97
407	(3)	11-	SQUEAK 226 (F,G) (Lord Hartington) J Gosden 8-9	L Dettori	85
408	(8)	1-	THE FARAWAY TREE 257 (F) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-9	A Clark	81
409	(9)	1-3	VISCOUMTESS BRAVE 39 (G,S) ([illegible]) Lord Huntingdon 8-9	R Cochrane	85
410	(1)	63-1	WESTERN HOUR 28 (D,F) (Mrs B Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-9	K Fallon	89

BETTING: 11-4 Priena, 11-2 Maroulla, 13-2 Flamboyance, 7-1 Squeak, 8-1 Calypso Grant, Dust Dancer, 10-1 The Faraway Tree, Western Hour, 12-1 others.

1996: SARDONIC 8-9 W Ryan (5-2 fav) H Cecil 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

CALYPSO GRANT beat Lycility 1½l in 8-runner listed race at Kempton (1m, good). DUST DANCER beat Heavenly Rick ¾l in 8-runner maiden at Leicester (7f, good to firm). FLAMBOYANCE beat Selberry 7l in 9-runner maiden at Wolverhampton (7f, AW) Jan 97. MAROULLA beat Doyella ¾l in 8-runner maiden at Kempton (1m 1f, good to firm). PRIENA 1½l 2nd of 7 to Mad Cl Camelot in listed race at Goodwood (1m 2f, good) with DUST DANCER about 7½l 5th. SQUEAK beat Cyberechnology 2l in conditions stakes at Redcar (7f, good to firm). THE FARAWAY TREE beat Our Way 2l in maiden at Yarmouth (6f, good to firm).
Selection: THE FARAWAY TREE

4.00 BUCKLEBURY MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,864: 7f str) (11 runners)

501	(10)	04	BLEWBURY HILL 12 (A Pye-Jeary) R J-Houghton 9-0	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
502	(11)	0-0	DAVIDS REVENGE 25 (P Pusinelli) D Chappell 9-0	A Clark	81
503	(5)	0-	FIFE MAJOR 216 (Sheikh Mohammed) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	–
504	(9)		GAJAN (J Williams) J Neville 9-0	M Fenton	–
505	(1)		HAJR (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	K Fallon	–
506	(3)		HOW BIZARRE (G Piper) T Hind 9-0	N Day	–
507	(7)		JORROCKS (P Mellon) I Balding 9-0	Martin Dwyer (3)	–
508	(4)	50-	ZINGARO 253 (M al-Maktoum) C Brittain 9-0	B Doyle	82
509	(8)		DUST (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 8-9	L Dettori	–
510	(2)		MISCONDUCT (Mrs S White) G L Moore 8-9	S Whitworth	–
511	(6)		POSATIVE (M Lewin) M Salaman 8-9	D Harrison	–

BETTING: 9-4 Hajr, 5-1 Blewbury Hill, Jorrocks, 8-1 Fife Major, Zingaro, 10-1 Dust, 16-1 Davids Revenge, Misconduct, Posative, 20-1 others.

1996: MEDIEVAL LADY 8-9 J Reid (10-1) Lady Herries 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

BLEWBURY HILL about 4l 4th of 17 to Shanteen in maiden at Kempton (7f, good to firm). DAVIDS REVENGE 9½l 7th of 23 to Za-Im in maiden here (6f, soft) Oct 96. FIFE MAJOR 12l 12th of 20 to Handsome Ridge in maiden at Doncaster (7f, soft) Nov 96. ZINGARO 10l 7th of 15 to Cosmic Prince in maiden at Brighton (7f, good) Oct 96.
Selection: BLEWBURY HILL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	31	129	24.0	A Whelan	3	22	13.6
P Chapple-Hyam	37	158	23.4	M Hills	21	175	12.0
P Cundell	3	18	16.7	T Quinn	31	264	11.7
R Charlton	19	116	16.4	Pat Eddery	31	278	11.2
G Wragg	5	31	16.1	D Harrison	14	126	11.1
D Loder	5	32	15.6	R Cochrane	16	149	10.7

4.30 FURLONG CLUB HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,669: 1m 4f 5yd) (9 runners)

601	(5)	5-2112	LITTLE ACORN 41 (D,BF,G) (A Simpson) S C Williams 9-7	K Darley	95
602	(4)	5-25	RAINWATCH 22 (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 9-4	Pat Eddery	98
603	(3)	254	SPARTAN ROYALE 30 (C Olley) C Brittain 9-3	K Fallon	95
604	(2)	0-020	HIGHLY PRIZED 26 (J Smith) I Balding 9-0	Martin Dwyer (3)	96
605	(9)	504-5	NORMAN CONQUEST 49 (R Scully) I Balding 8-12	L Dettori	90
606	(7)	0-001	TRAVELMATE 20 (G) (Barford Bloodstock) J Fanshawe 8-10	D Harrison	[illegible]
607	(1)	21-000	SUPREME SOUND 19 (B,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 8-10	A Clark	94
608	(6)	004	KHAYAL 24 (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-5	M Hills	96
609	(8)	356-06	PALAEMON 16 (V) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 7-10	N Varley	97

BETTING: 5-2 Rainwatch, 5-1 Little Acorn, Travelmate, 13-2 Spartan Royale, 8-1 Khayal, 10-1 Highly Prized, Supreme Sound, Palaemon, 14-1 others

1996: TEMPTRESS 8-8 S Sanders (12-1) P Walwyn 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

LITTLE ACORN beat Night Mirage 5l in 9-runner handicap at Carlisle (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start. RAINWATCH 5l 2nd of 15 to Mamalik in maiden here (1m, good to firm). SPARTAN ROYALE 1½l 2nd of 16 to Tanaasa in maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, good to soft). HIGHLY PRIZED 2l 2nd of 8 to Percy Isle in maiden at Salisbury (1m 4f, good to firm). TRAVELMATE beat Koraloona 2l in 16-runner handicap at Nottingham (1m 2f, good). KHAYAL 5¾l 4th of 16 to Green Power in maiden at Windsor (1m 67yd, soft).
Selection: LITTLE ACORN

5.00 LEVY BOARD APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£3,583: 1m str) (15 runners)

1	(2)	005200	AMBER FORT 6 (V,C,G,S) (Caledonian Racing) D Elsworth 4-8-13	M Henry	91
2	(5)	51-100	TATIKA 61 (D,F,G) (G Wragg) G Wragg 7-9-12	G Milligan (5)	90
3	(13)	01100-	VENI VIDI VICI 246 (D,G) (M Heaton-Ellis) M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-7	J Fowle (7)	89
4	(15)	21-502	WAIKIKI BEACH 13 (D,F,G) (Pennine Ptns) G L Moore 6-9-6	M Batchelor (5)	90
5	(8)	31-400	NOBLE DANE 17 (D,S) (Bestbee Ptns) P Harris 3-9-5	C Lowther (5)	90
6	(3)	0-3600	WHATEVER'S RIGHT 25 (D,F,G) (M Thurgood) M Usher 8-9-2	Martin Dwyer	91
7	(10)	-32110	SCATHEBURY 15 (D,F,G,S) (N Shields) K Burke 4-9-1	P Wright (7)	93
8	(4)	-00005	THERHEA 17 (CD,S) (R Gudge) B McMahon 4-9-1	A Whelan	97
9	(7)	0-2160	EUROBOX BOY 15 (D,F) (N Coverdale) A Jarvis 4-8-12	C Carver (7)	95
10	(1)	56-001	MR ROUGH 7 (D,F) (R Akehurst) D Morris 6-8-9 (6ex)	A Eddery (5)	[illegible]
11	(11)	000-55	DANCING LAWYER 12 (D,F,G) (Vintage Services) B Meehan 6-8-8	G Hannon (7)	98
12	(9)	400-04	ABSOLUTE UTOPIA 12 (M Lawrance) N Berry 4-8-8	R Havlin	98
13	(12)	31114-	KING PARROT 260 (D,BF,F,G) Lord Huntingdon 9-8-8	R Lake (7)	93
14	(6)	443-00	CA'D'ORO 24 (D,BF,G) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 4-8-6	P P Murphy	89
15	(14)	143600	SEA SPOUSE 35 (D,G,S) (7 Seas) M Blanshard 6-7-11	Kerry Baker (7)	86

BETTING: 5-1 Mr Rough, 13-2 King Parrot, 8-1 Waikiki Beach, 10-1 Noble Dane, Scathebury, Therhea, Absolute Utopia, 12-1 others

1996: HELIOS 8-8-10 A Whelan (5-1) N Walker 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMBER FORT 2l 2nd of 19 to Ben Gunn in handicap at Salisbury (7f, good to firm). WAIKIKI BEACH short-head 2nd of 9 to Anonym in amateur handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW). SCATHEBURY beat Ludo 1½l in 18-runner claimer at Windsor (1m 67yd, soft). MR ROUGH beat Civitha Hill Lad neck in 20-runner selling handicap at Yarmouth (1m, firm). ABSOLUTE UTOPIA about 1½l 4th of 10 to Vola Via in apprentice handicap at Kempton (1m 1f, good to firm). KING PARROTT beat African-Pard head in 12-runner handicap at Chepstow (7f, good to firm) July 96.
Selection: AMBER FORT

Eddery adds King Alex to strong Ascot book

PAT EDDERY, the champion jockey, supplemented a strong book of rides at Royal Ascot next week when agreeing to partner King Alex in the Hardwicke Stakes. The Wafic Said-owned colt is one of two that the jockey will ride for Roger Charlton, the Beckhampton trainer. He opens the meeting on Wixim in the Queen Anne Stakes.

Eddery, leading jockey at Royal Ascot five times, last topped the London Clubs Trophy table in 1993. His rides include Poteen, 2,000 Guineas-third, in the St James's Palace Stakes and Celeric in the Ascot Gold Cup.

Richard Hannon put the finishing touches to a number of his Royal Ascot candidates in a gallop after racing at Salisbury yesterday. "We will have about 10 runners at the Royal meeting next week and they are all very well," the Marlborough trainer said.

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER

2.10 Khawafi. 2.40 Sun In The Morning. 3.10 Nightlark. 3.40 Atlantic Desire. 4.10 Geimhriuil. 4.45 Nanton Point.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 **GEIMHRIUIL**.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 **SONG OF FREEDOM** (nap). 3.40 Henley. 4.10 Geimhriuil.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) — SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 ROOKWOOD MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,013: 1m 2f) (12 runners)

1	(6)		ALARMIST R Charlton 9-0	T Sprake	–
2	(1)		AZORES P Cole 9-0	David O'Neill (7)	–
3	(10)	05-	CITY HALL 226 M Stoute 9-0	W Ryan	87
4	(7)	2-	FLOWING FORTUNE 237 E Dunlop 9-0	J Weaver	82
5	(8)		SIGNED AND SEALED C Cyzer 9-0	A Morris	–
6	(9)	4-	SONG OF FREEDOM 219 J Gosden 9-0	G Hind	94
7	(12)	0	TARXIEN 16 K Burke 9-0	W J O'Connor	80
8	(3)	6-50	DUNDEL 22 B Hills 8-9	Paul Eddery	93
9	(11)	56	KHAWAFI 22 E Dunlop 8-9	D O'Donohoe (3)	[illegible]
10	(5)	6-3	OFF THE RAILS 19 H Candy 8-9	C Rutter	87
11	(2)		POLENISTA J Dunlop 8-9	M Roberts	–
12	(4)	00	PUTERI WENTWORTH 17 G Kelleway 8-9	S Sanders	82

7-2 Dundel, 4-1 Azores, 9-2 Flowing Fortune, 13-2 City Hall, 7-1 Alarmist, 10-1 Song Of Freedom, Polenista, 12-1 others

2.40 DARNLEY SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,428: 5f) (5)

1	(2)	0513	SUN IN THE MORNING 10 (D,BF,G) B Meehan 8-11	Paul Eddery	92
2	(4)	046	IVORY'S JOY 10 (B) K Ivory 8-6	C Scally	83
3	(1)		LADY RALPHINA J Bridger 8-6	A Daly (5)	–
4	(5)		SHANTHI P Makin 8-6	S Sanders	–
5	(3)	3040	SILENT PRIDE B M Usher 8-6	T Sprake	[illegible]

4-9 Sun In The Morning, 3-1 Silent Pride, 10-1 Shanthi, 16-1 Ivory's Joy, 33-1 Lady Ralphina

3.10 BADGER BREWERY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,385: 1m 4f) (8)

1	(3)	0-12	IKATANIA 56 (BF,F) J Dunlop 9-7	T Sprake	95
2	(2)	0612	HEART OF ARMOR 12 (D,S) P Cole 9-6	C Rutter	98
3	(1)	2-23	NIGHTLARK 26 (BF) D Loder 9-5	D R McCabe	90
4	(7)	3-44	PENNYS FROM HEAVEN 24 (BF) H Candy 9-2	T Quinn	[illegible]
5	(6)	-633	IRSAL 26 A Stewart 9-1	M Roberts	89
6	(8)	6-10	DAVOSKI 36 (G) B Hills 9-1	Paul Eddery	97
7	(5)	0-31	CIRO'S PEARL 19 (F) M Tompkins 9-0	W Ryan	95
8	(4)	-241	PROTOCOL 16 (F) J Hills 9-0	R Hughes	98

3-1 Protocol, 4-1 Nightlark, 9-2 Heart Of Armor, 6-1 Ikatania, 8-1 others

3.40 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS LIMITED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £5,336: 1m 1f) (7)

1	(7)	1-51	HENLEY 12 (F,G) D Loder 9-0	D R McCabe	94
2	(3)	01-	ZIMIRI 174 (G) J Toller 9-0	S Sanders	74
3	(6)	1-U5	MAYLANE 39 (S) A Stewart 8-12	M Roberts	90
4	(4)	1-04	SOPHOMORE 28 (G) B Hills 8-12	Paul Eddery	91
5	(1)	-146	GREEN JEWEL 5 (G) R Hannon 8-11	R Hughes	98
6	(2)	5-52	ATLANTIC DESIRE 8 (D,F) M Johnston 8-9	J Weaver	97
7	(5)	-006	RICH IN LOVE 12 (F) C Cyzer 8-9	W Ryan	[illegible]

15-8 Henley, 5-2 Atlantic Desire, 5-1 Sophomore, 7-1 Maylane, 8-1 Green Jewel, 10-1 Zimiri, 25-1 Rich In Love

4.10 ALBERT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,590: 7f) (7)

1	(1)	23-2	GEIMHRIUIL 19 L Cumani 9-0	J Weaver	[illegible]
2	(7)	04	KHALIK 25 E Dunlop 9-0	W Ryan	82
3	(4)		MONACO L Cumani 9-0	D R McCabe	–
4	(5)	36-0	OLIVO 16 C Horgan 9-0	Paul Eddery	81
5	(3)	30	REWARD 10 P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	88
6	(2)	5	SWIFT SOVEREIGN 19 J Gosden 9-0	G Hind	–
7	(6)	00-0	TOP OF THE GREEN 38 P Makin 9-0	S Sanders	–

5-4 Geimhriuil, 7-2 Khalik, 5-1 Reward, 6-1 Monaco, 10-1 Olivo, 12-1 Swift Sovereign, 33-1 Top Of The Green

4.45 MORTAR MILL HANDICAP (£3,428: 2m) (5)

1	(2)	00/4	TRANSOM 21 (D,F) Mrs A Perrett 6-10-0	T Quinn	[illegible]
2	(4)	0445	CASTLE COURAGEOUS 5 (C,D,F,G,S) Lady Herries 10-9-12	W Ryan	98
3	(3)	6-02	NANTON POINT 5 (D,F,G) Lady Herries 5-9-9	J Quinn	97
4	(1)	00-2	CLOUD INSPECTOR 12 M Johnston 6-9-4	J Weaver	90
5	(5)	2-06	MIGHTY PHANTOM 34 (D,F,G) J Hills 4-9-2	R Hughes	98

11-8 Nanton Point, 2-1 Cloud Inspector, 5-1 Transom, 8-1 Castle Courageous, 10-1 Mighty Phantom

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: E Dunlop, 7 winners from 21 runners, 33.3%; M Stoute, 22 from 84, 26.2%; P Cole, 26 from 114, 22.8%; J Gosden, 19 from 110, 17.3%; Lady Herries, 8 from 48, 16.7%; R Charlton, 10 from 62, 16.1%.

JOCKEYS: T Quinn, 44 winners from 268 rides, 16.4%; J Weaver, 8 from 60, 13.3%; R Hughes, 8 from 79, 10.1%. Only qualifiers.

Stevens to ride at Sandown

GARY STEVENS will warm up for Royal Ascot by riding at Sandown Park on Saturday, his first mounts in Britain for ten years. The top American jockey, in Europe for a ten-day visit, has been booked by David Loder. He will partner Wellspring in the Leicester Square Conditions Stakes and Shawm in the Grosvenor Square Maiden Stakes.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

2.20 Patsy Culsyth. 2.50 Skyers Flyer. 3.20 Spanish Verdict. 3.50 Ziggy's Viola. 4.20 Kippilaw. 4.55 Rich Glow.

GOING: FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 WASTWATER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,947: 5f) (10 runners)

1		COLONEL CUSTER C Thornton 9-0	D McKeown 8
2	6	FLYING HIGH 35 F Murphy 9-0	J Fortune 3
3	03	GLASS RIVER 10 P Evans 9-0	J F Egan 4
4	00	WAIT'N'SEE 19 M W Easterby 9-0	T Lucas 9
5		AMINGTON GIRL P Evans 8-9	J Carroll 5
6	0	CANDY TWIST 57 Ron Thompson 8-9	T Williams 7
7	0	CHIKAPENNY 13 Mrs L Stubbs 8-9	A Culhane 6
8	4450	DAWN PATROL 6 K Hogg 8-9	L Charnock 2
9	6652	PATSY CULSYTH 13 M Johnston 8-9	D Holland 1
10	0	THREE TENNERS 15 J Berry 8-9	T E Durcan (5) 10

11-8 Patsy Culsyth, 6-1 Three Tenners, 7-1 Glass River, Dawn Patrol, 8-1 Colonel Custer, Flying High, Amington Girl, 10-1 others

2.50 BUTTERMERE CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,542: 5f 207yd) (8)

1	1064	SENSE OF PRIORITY 5 (CD,BF,F,G) D Nicholls 8-9-1	Alex Greaves 7
2	00	PAPERWORK PETE 3 W Storey 5-8-13	J Fanning 1
3	-305	WINTER SCOUT 10 (B,CD,F,G) R Fahey 9-8-13	R Winston (7) 6
4	00-0	FORECAST 31 (D,F) K Morgan 4-8-9	D McKeown 2
5	5600	RAGAZZO 31 (G) J Wainwright 7-8-9	L Charnock 4
6	0000	LA VOLTA 14 (F) J Fitzgerald 4-8-8	J Fortune 3
7	52-3	DONNA'S DANCER 13 (B) N Tinkler 3-8-7	Kim Tinkler 5
8	0022	SKYERS FLYER 6 (D,F,G) Ron Thompson 3-8-6	T Williams 8

9-4 Skyers Flyer, 5-2 Donna's Dancer, 3-1 Sense Of Priority, 5-1 Winter Scout, 16-1 La Volta, 20-1 Paperwork Pete, Forecast, Ragazzo.

3.20 CARLISLE GLASS HANDICAP
(£3,583: 7f 214yd) (7)

1	3513	PEKAY 8 (F) M Johnston 4-10-1 (5ex)	D Holland 4
2	-500	BULSARA 7 (V,F) C Fairhurst 5-9-9	D McKeown 7
3	40-0	HIGHSPEED 13 (B,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 5-9-9	J Fortune 3
4	0640	SPANISH VERDICT 10 (CD,F,G,S) D Smith 10-9-8	A Culhane 6
5	-010	THATCHED 15 (CD,F,G) R Barr 7-9-7	P Fessey (3) 5
6	5021	JEDI KNIGHT 5 (G) M W Easterby 3-9-1 (5ex)	G Parkin (5) 2
7	00/0	MARZOCCO 39 (D,F) T Cuthbert 9-7-10	J Bramhill (5) 1

2-1 Jedi Knight, 3-1 Thatched, 4-1 Pekay, 5-1 Spanish Verdict, 7-1 Highspeed, 12-1 Bulsara, 33-1 Marzocco

3.50 LONGHORN HARDWARE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,853: 1m 4f) (8)

1	2114	BABY JANE 21 (D,BF,F,G) B Mactaggart 9-7	J Carroll 4
2	6641	SCARROTS 16 (D,F) S C Williams 9-6	J Fortune 8
3	3201	SKELTON SOVEREIGN 13 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 8-13	F Lynch 1
4	0-65	ZIGGY'S VIOLA 16 Mrs M Reveley 8-11	A Culhane 7
5	0404	WILDMOOR 23 J Bethell 8-11	T Williams 3
6	5024	KINGDOM PEARL 59 M Camacho 8-3	L Charnock 2
7	000	COCHITI 15 C Thornton 7-11	Dale Gibson 5
8	5000	MAREMMA 16 E Incisa 7-10	Kim Tinkler 6

11-4 Baby Jane, 3-1 Scarrots, 9-2 Skelton Sovereign, 11-2 Ziggy's Viola, Wildmoor, 8-1 Kingdom Pearl, 20-1 Cochiti, 50-1 Maremma.

4.20 ENNERDALE RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,612: 5f 207yd) (12)

1	5-50	CHANGED TO BAILEYS 13 (B) J Berry 9-0	J Fortune 9
2	5-00	COURT EXPRESS 16 T Etherington 9-0	A Culhane 1
3	-005	MILL END BOY 7 M W Easterby 9-0	G Parkin (5) 2
4	5404	NERVOUS REX 9 W Muir 9-0	J Wilkinson (7) 4
5	00-5	OHIO ROYALE 12 G Oldroyd 9-0	M McAndrew 8
6	20-6	PRESENTIMENT 59 M Wane 9-0	J Carroll 12
7	-000	RED ROMANCE 34 D Smith 9-0	L Charnock 6
8	6353	ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK 12 (B) P Evans 9-0	J F Egan 5
9	0060	SPARKLING HARRY 15 Miss L Siddall 9-0	D McKeown 10
10	-000	HEATHYARDS PEARL 27 R Hollinshead 8-11	D Griffiths (3) 7
11	0-04	KIPPILAW 6 M Johnston 8-11	D Holland 11
12	0-00	THEWRIGHTONE 16 (V) G Oldroyd 8-11	R Farmer (7) 3

9-4 Kippilaw, 7-2 Rockaroundtheclock, 13-2 Nervous Rex, 8-1 Changed To Baileys, Mill End Boy, 10-1 Court Express, 14-1 Sparkling Harry, 16-1 others.

4.55 CRUMMOCK WATER APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,682: 5f) (10)

1	0000	RAMSEY HOPE 13 (V,D,F,G) C Fairhurst 4-9-10	T Siddall (5) 6
2	0-03	MARINO STREET 5 (D,G) P Evans 4-9-5	D Griffiths 4
3	4000	BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 10 (D,F) D Chapman 5-9-4	P Fessey 1
4	0010	RICH GLOW 12 (D,F,S) N Bycroft 6-9-4	P Roberts 9
5	0-00	L A TOUCH 10 (F) J J Quinn 4-9-3	K Sked (3) 3
6	0006	GRAND CHAPEAU 6 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 5-9-3	Iona Wands (3) 5
7	0242	FEATHERSTONE LANE 8 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 6-8-11	D Pears 7
8	0531	SUNSET HARBOUR 1 (D,F) S Kettlewell 4-8-12 (7ex)	Jenny Benson (5) 10
9	5005	THICK AS THIEVES 25 (D,F,G) Ron Thompson 5-8-4	Darren Moffatt 2
10	0005	MU-ARRIK 10 (V,F,G) G Oldroyd 9-7-10	J Bramhill 8

7-2 Sunset Harbour, 4-1 Featherstone Lane, 6-1 Marino Street, 7-1 Rich Glow, 8-1 Bowcliffe Grange, Grand Chapeau, Mu-Arrik, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 16 winners from 68 runners, 23.5%; M Johnston, 12 from 64, 18.8%; P Evans, 6 from 34, 17.6%; J Berry, 15 from 105, 14.3%; C Thornton, 3 from 27, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: Paul Roberts, 3 winners from 17 rides, 17.6%; A Culhane, 5 from 33, 15.2%; G Parkin, 3 from 20, 15.0%; J Fortune, 11 from 89, 12.4%; P Fessey, 3 from 29, 10.3%. Only qualifiers.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Carlisle: 3.20 Bulsara. 4.20 Thewrightone. Newbury: 4.30 Supreme Sound, Palaemon.

[illegible]

David Hands meets the coach setting foot in a management snake pit

Springboks prepare for leap of faith

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Visionary or sacrificial lamb? Du Plessis has no coaching pedigree, but is seen as the man to lead South Africa into the promised land of total rugby

The first thing you notice about Carel du Plessis are the eyes. They have the intent stare of the visionary, which many in South Africa believe the latest Springboks coach to be. It is as though they are searching for a new world to conquer, a world; at present, occupied only by South Africa's inveterate rivals, New Zealand.

Yet no one quite knows what to expect from Du Plessis's teams. There were few lessons to be absorbed from the 74-10 dismissal of Tonga in Cape Town on Tuesday night, the *first occasion* on which a team selected and prepared by the new coach took the field, save that Du Plessis's reaction was that only injury would create change before the series with the British Isles begins, at Newlands, on June 21.

Du Plessis argued that the XV on *Tuesday* was picked on form and would have been the same had the opponents been the All Blacks. South Africa's problem is that no label can be pinned on a coach who has no track record. Were one to suggest that he is a proponent of total rugby it would not be out of place, but Du Plessis's rise has everything to do with the complicated politics of South African rugby.

This is not to denigrate a man with a golden touch. At 36, he has the look of one who could still be enjoying the title "Prince of Wings", which was *his soubriquet when he played* for Western Province and made 12 appearances for South Africa between 1982 and 1989 — the years of a generation starved of international rugby by their country's politics. *Du Plessis, a graduate of* Stellenbosch University, is also a successful gilts trader and a family man with two children.

Why would such a man seek to enter the snake pit of South Africa management, which has used up John Williams, Gerrie Sonnekus, Ian McIntosh, Kitch Christie and André Markgraaff as coaches since the re-entry to the world stage in 1992? Perhaps the answer lies partly in Du Plessis's playing background during the 1980s, when South African *provincial rugby* became so introverted. He acknowledges, as any player from Stellenbosch *would, the influence of* the late Danie Craven, but also hints at the frustration of playing with great individuals who so seldom had the chance to express themselves in world rugby's great stadiums.

Now is *his chance to mould* a team in the image that *he* and colleagues such as Danie Gerber, Johan Heunis and *Divan Serfontein might have* aspired to had they been allowed. Eleven years ago, Du Plessis and Gerber gave the world a hint of what they were missing when they played for an overseas XV against a five nations' championship XV at Twickenham. Du Plessis electrified the game with a 60-metre crossfield run of such pace and strength that no opponent could touch him as he scored in the corner.

Towards the end of his playing career, Du Plessis and his older brother, Michael, also an international, moved to Transvaal and helped them to a Currie Cup final. It was *said then that the brothers ran* the back line, even though "Pa" Pelser was the provincial coach. Carel's qualities impressed Louis Luyt, the province's president and now president of the South African *Rugby Football Union (Sarfu)*, whose support is vital to any fundamental change at representative level.

> ## 'Carel du Plessis is the man with the golden touch. Now he can mould a team in his own image'

In 1994, when Jannie Engelbrecht was managing the *Springboks* in Wales, it was Du Plessis who attended the World Cup managers' conference on behalf of South Africa. When Markgraaff became the national coach last year, he asked for the services of Du Plessis as "tactical coach" on the tour to Argentina, France and Wales, and suddenly a new coaching hat *was in the ring.*

"Carel is a great leader and visionary and he possesses a shrewd rugby mind," Rian Oberholzer, chief executive of Sarfu, said. "We are confident he can knit the different strands of *Springbok* rugby together and come up with a winning combination." Others are not so optimistic. They perceive a romantic whose teams may try to run before they can walk.

"I am confident about being involved at this level because I believe I am trying to bring the variation to our game that we need," Du Plessis said. "We need to introduce a game of pace, we need more constructive back-line play. We are too one-dimensional, even though we have the players able to *stand out and play with flair.*

"You have to adapt your game, you have to make changes and that's where, as a coach, you get tested. We should be innovative, we should take initiatives, *because the cycle within rugby* today is no longer a five or ten-year period, it's more like two or three years."

Yet to entrust so significant a post to a coaching novice has baffled traditionalists and is contrary to the usual conservative approach taken here. When Markgraaff resigned in disgrace this year, after accusations of racial abuse, Nick Mallett, not unreasonably, hoped for promotion. Mallett, the No 8 who won a Blue at Oxford University in 1979, was Markgraaff's assistant last au*tumn and a successful coach* with Boland, yet Du Plessis was promoted over him. Mallett did not seek to remain as assistant, but will prepare the Emerging Springboks, who *play the Lions next Tuesday.*

It is clear that Du Plessis has no love for the formulaic game that has become endemic in the southern hemisphere, in which midfield players become no more than battering rams intent on establishing second-phase possession. In that sense, he is already an admirer of the Lions' more gifted individuals, such as Gregor Townsend, Robert Howley and Jeremy Guscott, of whom Du Plessis said: "It's hard to believe he has been left out in the cold."

How swiftly he can bring his ideas into practice and how much patience the South Afri*can public will grant him*, remains obscured, even to the most piercing of eyes.

EQUESTRIANISM

Dixon has last chance to prove herself

By Jenny MacArthur

KAREN DIXON, a regular member of the British three-day-event team since 1988, *has a final chance to* earn selection for the European championships at Burghley in September when she competes with Too Smart in Yorkshire at the Bramham International Horse Trials, which start today.

The Trials, which also host the *Yorkshire Post* British Young Riders national championship, take on a new appearance this year. Mark Phillips, the guest course designer, has beefed up *the fences for the* cross country on Saturday — to an extent that some of the younger horses may not be able to take the straight routes everywhere.

Appropriately, the 90-strong field is stronger than usual. Ian Stark, the winner last year, has a chance ride on Jonquil Hemming's Positive Rain on which he won at Floors Castle two weeks ago. Pippa Funnell, the runner-up at Punchestown last month and a leading contender for the British team at Burghley, rides Supreme Rock. Leslie Law, also long-listed *for* the European championships, competes with Perryfields George.

A notable absentee is William Fox-Pitt, whose intended ride, Derrybrig, owned by Ginny Leng, knocked *himself in the field.*

Mark Todd, of New Zealand, heads the foreign entries with Broadcast News, a member of New Zealand's bronze medal-winning team in Atlanta. Owned by Vicky Latta, who has now retired from the sport, the 13-year-old gelding was due to go to Badminton last month, but had to be withdrawn when foreign riders were limited to one horse.

Dixon, a member of the British team at the past three Olympic Games and winner of the team gold and individual bronze medals at the 1994 world championships, *has to prove herself* all over again this weekend. Too Smart, on which she won at Punchestown in 1994 and was fifth at Burghley the *following year, is one of the* most talented horses in the sport, but prone to the odd aberration.

Badminton has not proved lucky for Too Smart. He had a run-out in 1995 and 1996 and this year — when he had hoped to earn Dixon her team place — he had to be withdrawn after the dressage suffering from corns. Dixon comes to Bramham in confident mood, however, after successes in one-day *events; including second* place at Floors Castle. "I think Too Smart is growing up at last," she said.

Dixon: in confident mood

Other leading contenders *include Anna Hermann, of* Sweden, on Just Merlin, Jean Teulere, of France, on Amouncha and Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, with the hard-pulling Merillion — formerly ridden by Matt Ryan — and New York.

Nicholson, a member of the Olympic bronze medal-winning team in Atlanta, could snatch the lead in the Land-Rover/FEI world rider rankings if he is successful this weekend.

LAND-ROVER/FEI WORLD RIDER RANKINGS: 1, D O'Connor (US) 216pts; 2, M King (GB) 217; 3, B Tait (NZ) 166; 4, W Fox-Pitt (GB) 160; 5, B Davidson (US) 138; 6, A Nicholson (NZ) 125; 7, P Funnell (GB) 125; 8, K O'Connor (US) 125; 9, M Todd (NZ) 122; 10, J Burns (US) 119

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

A frequent problem in defence is whether to be active or passive. East had that decision on this hand, from the final trial for the British open team for the 1997 European championships, which start at the weekend.

Dealer North **North-South game** **IMPs**

North:
♠ Q 7 3
♥ J 9
♦ K 7 4 3
♣ Q J 10 5

West:
♠ K 9 8
♥ Q 10 7 4
♦ 8 6
♣ A 9 6 3

East:
♠ J 10 6 2
♥ K 8 5 3
♦ A 9
♣ K 7 4

South:
♠ A 5 4
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J 10 5 2
♣ 8 2

S	W	N	E
Rosen	Justin Hackett	McIntosh	Jason Hackett
—	—	Pass	1 H
Pass	2 H	*Double*	Pass
3 D	3 H	Pass	Pass
4 D	All Pass		

Contract: Four Diamonds by South. Lead: seven of hearts

We used to throw these deals in when I was a boy. There were several dubious calls, and I think Rosen's final bid of Four Diamonds is clearly wrong. His side had already done well to push East-West to Three Hearts.

West led the seven of hearts (*his partnership's system* being third and fifth highest). East played the king and South won the ace. He played the jack of diamonds, and ran it to East's ace. East returned a heart, won by West, and West exited with a diamond to South's jack. South now led a club to the ten and East's king. What should East return?

In some circumstances it can be wrong to open up the spade suit. If declarer *has* K 9 x, playing a spade will give him two tricks. Presumably with that in mind Jason Hackett returned a club, and now the declarer's two losing spades went away, for one down.

The way East should have looked at it was this. Declarer has turned up with five diamonds and has at most three hearts. If has six cards in the black suits, he is never going to have to play spades for more than one trick — one will be going away on dummy's clubs; and when he has five cards in *the black suits, as* above, a spade is essential in case West has K x x.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ARSHEEN
a. Toxic gas
b. Measure of length
c. Afterglow

WELTBILD
a. View of life
b. World atlas
c. Shoe leather

ZYMIC
a. Astronomical
b. Duplicated
c. By fermentation

AORIST
a. An aviator
b. A high-pitched vocalist
c. A Greek tense

Answers on page 49

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Times schools championship

The semi-final and final of the British Schools chess championship, sponsored by *The Times* and endorsed by the British Chess *Federation, will take place on July* 3 and 4 at the Charing Cross Hotel, London. The *four semi-finalists* are Hampton School, Manchester Grammar, Methodist College and *Oakham School. Those wishing to* enter next year's competition should contact the Chief Organiser, *Mitchell Taylor, 4 Alders* Road, Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 9QG (tel: 0181-959 6915).

Staunton wins

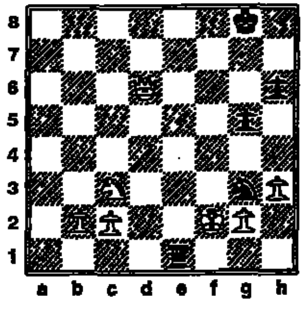
Continuing my series in homage to Howard Staunton, today's game is *a win from his match against* Daniel Harrwitz, a master of German/Polish extraction who was largely resident in Paris. During the 1840s Staunton established, consolidated and advanced his reputation by convincing match victories against the leading European masters, St. Amant, Horwitz and Harrwitz. It was only in 1851, when he burdened himself by organising the first ever international tournament, as well as trying to compete in it, that Staunton's reputation as a player began to wane.

White: Staunton
Black: Harrwitz
London 1846

Giuoco Piano

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	Bc5
4	0-0	Nf6
5	d3	d6
6	h3	0-0
7	Bg5	h6
8	Bh4	Be6
9	Bb3	Kh7
10	Nc3	Ne7
11	d4	exd4
12	Nxd4	Bxb3
13	axb3	g5
14	Bg3	Bxd4
15	Qxd4	Ng6
16	Rxa7	Rxa7
17	Qxa7	Nh5
18	Qxb7	f5
19	exf5	Rxf5
20	Rd1	Nxg3
21	fxg3	Rf7
22	Nd5	Ne5
23	Qb4	Qa8
24	Qa4	Qb7
25	Qe4+	Kg7
26	Nc3	Qb6+
27	Qd4	Qc6
28	b4	Rf5
29	b5	Qc4
30	b6	Rf1+
31	Kh2	Rxd1
32	Qxc4	Nxc4
33	bxc7	Re1
34	c8Q	Ne3
35	Qd7+	Kg8
36	Qxd6	Nf1+
37	Kg1	Nxg3+
38	Kf2	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



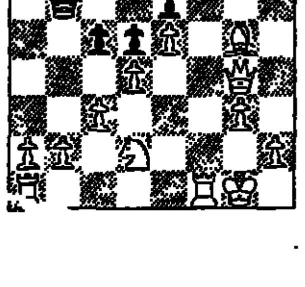
The unveiling of Staunton's long overdue headstone will be at Kensal Green cemetery on July 28. Those wishing to attend the unveiling ceremony should contact Barry Martin on 0181-744 2868.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kacheischvili — Dizdarevic, Pula 1997. White has a strong concentration of force on the kingside. How did he now make the most of this?



Solution on page 49

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

21 CARS TO BE WON
DRIVE AWAY IN A BRAND NEW FORD

Start collecting tokens in *The Times* today and you could be one of 21 readers who will drive off in a new top-of-the-range Ford in the biggest and best car promotion ever. Our prize draw celebrates 21 years of Ford as Britain's favourite car manufacturer by giving you the chance to win one of 21 cars. Included in the many prizes is the Explorer, above. Its powerful 4.0 litre engine, unique five-speed auto transmission, sophisticated 4x4 system and luxury specification helped it to take the American four-wheel drive market by storm. Every day we will feature a different model from the Ford range in our car competition bonanza.

HOW TO ENTER Collect 10 tokens from *The Times* or five from *The Times* and one from *The Sunday Times*, or two from *The Sunday Times*. All tokens must be differently numbered. Another token will appear in *The Sunday Times* this Sunday. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry must be on an official Ford prize draw entry form. Terms and conditions appeared in *The Times* on June 2. Tokens should be inserted in the Ford leaflet which appeared with Monday's *Times* or attached to the entry form which will appear in *The Sunday Times* this weekend, or in *The Times* on Saturday June 21. Full details of where to send your entries and tokens are printed on the entry forms.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1988

- FORD announce a record 583,790 cars and 99,838 commercial vehicles registered in Britain
- First Red Nose day — 3.8 million distributed
- First female football club executive: Annie Bassett, Reading FC
- Permanent bungy jumping facility introduced in New Zealand

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TOKEN 10

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CHANGING TIMES

GOLF

Woods equipped for another long-range strike

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND

NEVER mind the questions about the Republican tax bill, Government relief for flooded areas of the Midwest or the joint Republican and Democrat package that would repay the United States' $819 million debt to the UN, there is one issue that is dominating the nation's capital near here this morning. It is this: will Tiger Woods win the second major championship of the year and complete what is known as the second leg of the grand slam?

There is no doubt that Woods can add to the Masters title he won so thrillingly two months ago. The debate is whether he will. He has the ability and the attitude. It is hard to stress how composed and self-assured Woods is for a young man of 21. On Tuesday he faced a grilling from 500 reporters in front of 33 television cameras with as much equanimity as a man might demonstrate when attending a piano recital.

There can be few doubts about his form, even though he came 67th in his last tournament, his worst finish this year. The week before the Masters he went round his home course in Florida in 59. Last week, in a round at Lochinvar, in Houston, Texas, Woods went round in 63. That included one bogey and a missed three-foot putt.

The length of Woods's hitting has not been exaggerated. Though he intends to use his driver on only three holes — the 6th, 10th and 15th — he hardly loses any length in comparison because he hits his three-wood between 260 and 280 yards and his two-iron about 240. Length is at a premium here. At 7,213 yards, Congressional is the longest course used for a US Open.

The 6th is one of the hardest, a 475-yard par five that has been converted into a par four for this event. Greg Norman has half a mind to play it as a three-shotter. In practice, Nick Price needed a beautiful drive and a one-iron to reach the green. Woods got there with a drive and a seven-iron.

The 13th is another monstrous par four, this one of 461 yards. Woods hit a three-wood a mere 290 yards and a six-iron the rest. He truly is prodigious, yet some holes are out of reach even for Woods, who has said he considers the 9th to be a three-shotter. That's all right then. It is 607 yards, partly uphill.

So it is Woods against the field. This time, though, the field, which includes a record 16-strong representation from the European tour, is ready for him. For Woods, this will not be Augusta revisited. There he set a record 18-under-par total and won by 12 strokes.

There are none of the enormously wide fairways and light rough that are always so evident at Augusta. He will not be able to whale away off the tee as he did in April, knowing that even if he strays a few yards offline he will hardly be penalised. The five-inch deep rough will cost even Woods a half-stroke penalty if he ventures into it and he will certainly not be playing a wedge into nine of the greens, as he was at Augusta and, thus, he will not be as accurate.

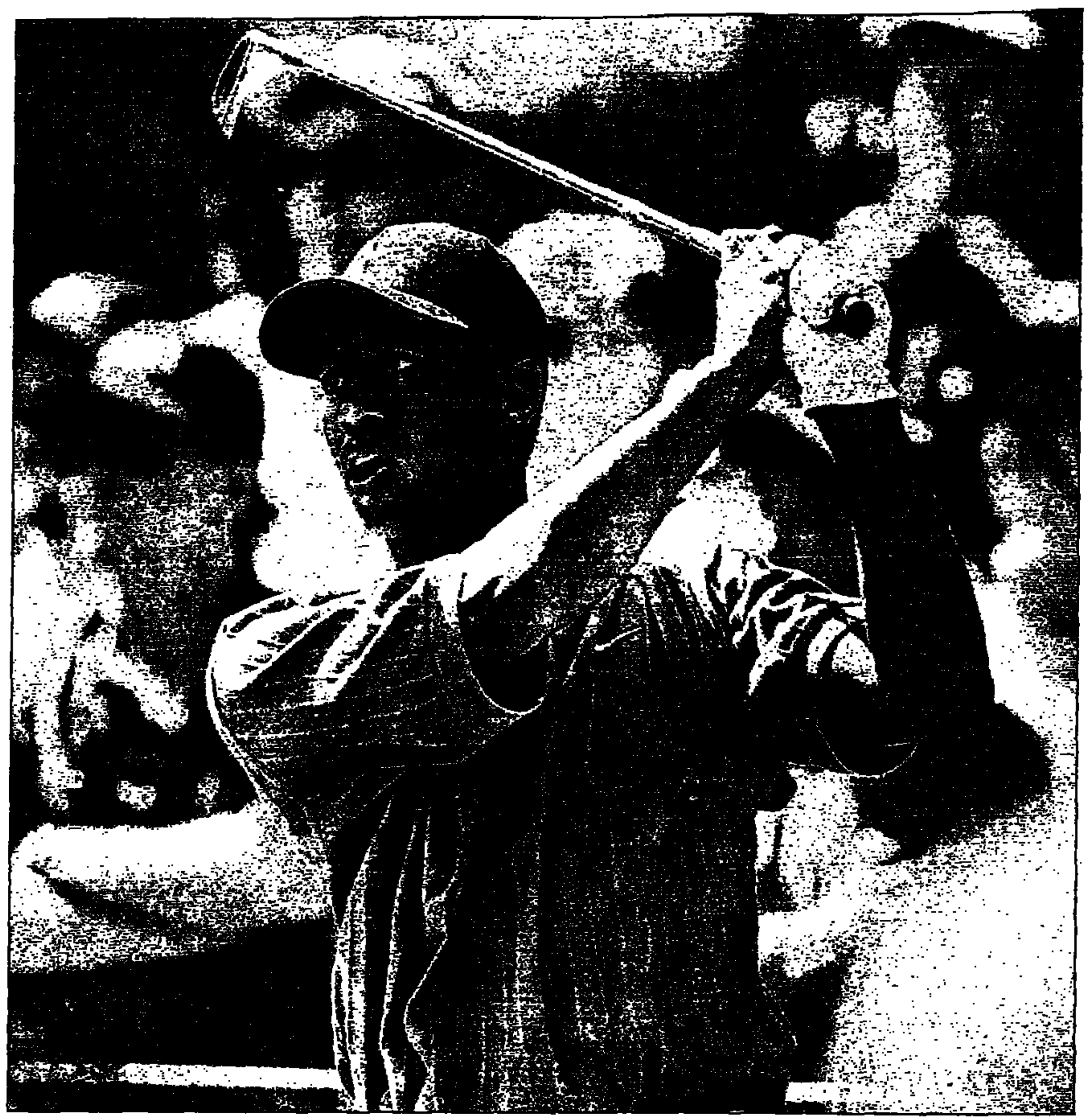
His putting will, therefore, be put under more pressure. It is worth pointing out that though his length is what was so striking at Augusta, his putting was brilliant, too. It cannot always be brilliant.

Furthermore, there is some pride at stake here. "We are all anxious to see what's going to happen here compared to what happened at Augusta," Colin Montgomerie said. Montgomerie is one of those who ought to challenge Woods. He is long and straight on a course that favours such attributes and putted beautifully when winning at Slaley Hall last Sunday.

Nick Faldo is another contender on a such a gruesome course, as is Davis Love III, but Norman may be Woods's greatest threat. He has finished no worse than fifth in his past three events in the United States and has retained his status as No 1 in the world rankings in the face of the Woods onslaught. Norman knows this course as well, having won two tournaments here.

Perhaps the greatest spur of all, though, is what it will mean if Woods wins again. Montgomerie put it best. "I think if he wins here then we've all got to look somewhere else, because if he's winning at Augusta and here then we're all in trouble."

Montgomerie: favoured by the conditions


Woods follows the flight of his ball during practice for the US Open at Congressional. Photograph: Stephen Jaffe

US OPEN TEE-OFF TIMES

United States unless stated
All times BST
12.00: B Bryant, J McGovern, M Brisky
12.10: S Cink, D Hammond, E Trybe
12.20: C Rose, G Waite (NZ), L Silveira
12.30. C Perry, A Coltart (GB), K Green
12.40: H Irwin, B Crenshaw, J Nicklaus
12.50: F Couples, I Woosnam (GB), G Norman (Aus)
13.00: D Love, C Montgomerie (GB), P Mickelson
13.10: M Calcavecchia, S Elkington (Aus), M Brooks
13.20: C Strange, N Price (Zim), T Watson
13.30: M Hulbert, Larry Rinker, P McGinley (GB)
13.40: S Ames (Trin), J D Blake, W Andrade
13 50: R Cochran, * C Wollmann, D Ogrin
14.00: P Harrington (Ire), D Waldorf, F Funk
14.10: L Roberts, J Cook, T Bjorn (Den)
14.20: M Bradley, M Reid, J Haas
14 30: J Sluman, H Sutton, S Simpson
14.40: V Singh (Fiji), R Tway, S Hoch
14.50: K Perry, M McNulty (SA), D Forsman
15.00: S Murphy, R Bradley, E Humenik
15.10: P Teravainen, * J Kribel, D Toms
15.20: B Langer (Ger), M Ozaki (Japan), F Zoeller
15.30: R Gunn, * R Kearney, M Schiene
15.40: G Sweatt, J Estes, H Kase (Japan)
15.50: M Clark, S McRoy, J Mazza
16.00: E Brito, K Jones, M Martin
16.10: D Zinkon, W Porter, J Pillar
16.20: R Gilder, P Goydos, R Black
16.30: Lee Rinker, F Lickliter, K Gibson
16.40: C Parry (Aus), S Dunlap, M Wiebe
16.50: P Mitchell (GB), B Tennyson, G Nicklaus
17.00: T Lehman, T Woods, S Jones
17.10: T Kite, J M Olazabal (Sp), P Azinger
17.20: C Pavin, N Faldo (GB), L Janzen
17.30: P Stewart, E Els (SA), J Daly
17.40: L Mize, D Stockton, L Nelson
17.50: R Russell (GB), L Mattiace, G Kraft
18.00: O Browne, D Tryder, R Mast
18.10: D Schreyer, * T Noe, P J Cowan
18.20: A Morse, C Smith, M Swartz
18.30: S Stricker, J Morse, R Allenby (Aus)
18.40: P Stankowski, S Appleby (Aus), J Parnevik (Swe)
18.50: M O'Meara, L Westwood (GB), J Leonard
19.00: B Faxon, F Nobilo (NZ), T Tolles
19.10: P Broadhurst (GB), J Furyk, D Duval
19.20: S McCarron, D Clarke (GB), J Maggert
19.30: D White, M Dawson, E Fryatt (GB)
19.40: B Hughes (Aus), J Green, M Gogel
19.50: G Towne, R Wylie, G Robison
20.00: R Cramer, M Sposa, J Ferenz
20.10: A Aguilar, * J Samelsberger, P Parker
20.20: K Schall, K Altenhof, B Wayment
20.30: R Hunter, S Adams, R Butcher
* *denotes amateur*

Geographer enjoying lie of land

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

BECKY MORGAN, the Welsh international from Monmouth, equalled Janice Moodie's one-day old course record of 67 in the second round of qualifying for the British women's amateur championship at Cruden Bay, near Peterhead, yesterday but Moodie still led the qualifiers comfortably.

The Scot dropped a shot at the first — "I wasn't warmed up," she said — but did little else wrong in a round of 70 that gave her a total of 137, nine under par. It was her best 36-hole total on a links course, although she managed to be ten under par in a college event at Stanford, in California, earlier this year.

Ana Belen Sanchez, a chunky Spaniard who is a nononsense striker of the ball, was three shots behind Moodie after a round of 68 that featured five birdies in the first eight holes and three more in the last five.

Morgan, who finished on 141, came home in 32, four under the card, in a round that included seven birdies and a mere 26 putts. She is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina where her degree was in geography, which must have come in useful for finding her way this far north.

After her round, Moodie discussed the joys of studying psychology in far out California where she particularly enjoyed the abnormal branch of the subject, not least because the lecturer was a bearded ex-lady, and being plied with beer by none other than Tiger Woods. Well, at least the Masters champion poured Moodie one bevy at Mhairi McKay's 21st-birthday party.

More prosaically, Moodie was full of praise for Laurie Phillips, her caddie, the 18-year-old scion of the Kilmarnock Arms, a local hotel. He won the Scottish schoolboys' title last season and his knowledge was invaluable, particularly on the greens.

Kim Rostron, the English champion, and Alison Rose, the Scottish champion, qualified comfortably, despite a brace of double bogeys for the former and a triple bogey and a double in the space of three holes for the latter.

There was also notable improvement from three Englishwomen. Rebecca Hudson, the girls' champion, had a 69 that was ten shots better than her opening round and included an eagle three at the 5th. Two Curtis Cup players, Elaine Ratcliffe and Karen Stupples, had 70 and 71 respectively, an advance on their Tuesday efforts of 84 and 79.

The youngest competitor, 14-year-old Becky Brewerton, of Abergele and Pensarn, near Flint, finished on 159 and was one of seven competitors playing-off for the last six qualifying places.

CRUDEN BAY DETAILS

LEADING QUALIFYING SCORES: 137: J Moodie (Windyhill) 67, 70. **140:** A B Sanchez (Sp) 72, 68. **141:** B Morgan (Monmouth) 74, 67. **146:** E Farquharson-Black (Deeside) 74, 72. **147:** M McKay (Turnberry) 75, 72. K M Juul (Den) 75, 72. **148:** K Macintosh (Aus) 74, 74. R Hudson (Wheatley) 79, 69. **149:** M Zelsmann (Holl) 75, 74. M Prieto (Sp) 74, 75. E Esterl (Ger) 77, 72. **150:** L Davis (Conwy Caernarvonshire) 74, 76. E R Power (Kilkenny) 74, 76. S Amicau (Fr) 73, 77. S Marais (SA) 72, 78. K Stupples (Royal Cinque Ports) 79, 71. **151:** M Alsuguren (Fr) 78, 73. W Warrington (SA) 76, 75. A Laing (Heriot Watt University) 77, 74. **152:** K Taylor (Sandiford Springs) 74, 78. G Nocera (Fr) 77, 75. M Hedberg (Swe) 73, 79. **153:** M Neggers (Holl) 79, 74. C Grady (Bawburgh) 76, 77. K Burton (St George's Hill) 74, 79. L Kreutz (Fr) 74, 79. A-J Eathorne (Can) 74, 79. N Evans (Pleasington) 73, 80. S Wood (Aberdeen Ladies) 76, 77. **154:** A Larraneta (Sp) 79, 75. K Rostron (Clitheroe) 76, 78. B Hackett (Castletroy) 78, 76. E Ratcliffe (Sandiway) 84, 70. C Hargan (Dundee University) 77, 77. **155:** Y Cassidy (Dundalk) 77, 78. L Nicholson (Heriot Watt University) 77, 78. E Dowdall (Wexford) 81, 74. E Pilgrim (Celtic Manor) 78, 77. S Cavalier (It) 74, 81. I Rosberg (Swe) 75, 80. F Lemmens (Holl) 74, 81. **156:** L Urquhart (Banchory) 80, 76. L Mackay (Gullane). N Nijenhuis (Holl) 76, 80. G Simpson (Cleckheaton and District) 83, 73. C Pitson (Ormskirk) 74, 82. K Burns (Clydebank and District) 75, 81. **157:** S Gillemo (Swe) 81, 76. K Tennuswood (Wentworth) 81, 76. A Rose (Stirling) 79, 78. L Tupholme (Northcliffe) J Hickmott (Chester) 79, 78. J Lindbergh (Swe) 78, 79. S Sanderson (The Berkshire) 79, 78. C Salas (US) 78, 79. **158:** A Touzmann (Fr) 76, 82. L Morton (Tulalan) 82, 76. M McGreevy (Rossmore) 80, 78. **159:** *J Ford (Gullane Ladies) 80, 79. *R Brewerton (Abergele and Pensarn) 81, 78. *J Foques (Fr) 80, 79. *K Moggach (Portlethen) 77, 82. *C Marron (Bromborough) 77, 82. *C Lipscombe (Cirencester) 77, 82. *K Knowles (Worplesdon) 83, 76.

* denotes play-off

IN BRIEF

Martin has to overcome door and opponent

BRETT MARTIN, the 34-year-old Australian, had two escapes yesterday in reaching the second round of the Al Ahram International in Cairo (Colin McQuillan writes). First, he had to tear apart the door of his hotel bathroom after an hour of accidental incarceration and then, with his racket arm still cramping from the effort, he fought back from match ball down to overcome Omar el Borolossy, of Egypt, 15-12, 10-15, 9-15, 17-15, 15-9.

His opponent in the second round tomorrow will be the England No 1, Chris Walker, who beat Tim Garner, a qualifier. Peter Marshall, the former world No 2, will play his first major match today after nearly two years out of competition with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome when he meets Ahmed Barada.

Hockey: Lucilla Wright, 17, a pupil at Bromsgrove School, has retained her place in the England squad to take part in a six nations' tournament in Seoul later this month. The recall of Mandy Nicholls and Carol Voss at the expense of Sarah Blanks and Lucy Newcombe are the only changes to the side that competed in the Champions' Trophy in Berlin last week.

Swimming: James Hickman and Karen Pickering showed good form on the first day of the Scottish national championships in Glasgow yesterday. Hickman, world short-course champion over 200m butterfly, won the 50m butterfly (25.57sec) and 200m medley (2min 06.74sec), with Pickering, former world short-course champion over 200m freestyle, taking the 100m freestyle title in 57.23sec.

Polo: The tournament for the high-goal Queen's Cup, which has been contested in four leagues since June 3, entered the quarter-final phase at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, yesterday, with the match between Ali Albwardy's team Dubai (second in league two) and Urs Schwarzenbach's Black Bears (first in league one), who won 10-6 after taking a 6-1 lead at the end of the second chukka. The encounter was also the challenge for the Muscular Dystrophy trophy.

BLACK BEARS: 1, U Schwarzenbach (1); 2, T F Llorente (9); 3, M Azzaro (10); Back, J Fisher (2).

DUBAI: 1, A Albwardy (1); 2, J N Astrada (8); 3, M F Araujo (9); Back, R Matthews (4).

THE TIMES ITC INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET

The ITC leaderboard published yesterday included some incorrect scores. To check your scores and position in the league call the ITC check line on:

***0891 884 624**

*(0990 100 349 outside UK)
*from 12 noon

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

BRATISLAVA: IAAF Grand Prix meeting: Men: 400m: 1, I Thomas (GB) 45.02sec; 2, D Kamoga (Uga) 45.05; 3, J Baulch (GB) 45.21. **800m:** 1, S Kiptoo (Ken) 1min 45.25sec; 2, L Kiptoech (Ken) 1:45.44; 3, V Malakwen (Ken) 1:45.45. **1,500m:** 1, D Komen (Ken) 3:31.29; 2, J Kosgei (Ken) 3:34.09; 3, R Kiplagat (Den) 3:34.81. **5,000m:** 1, T Nyariki (Ken) 12:56.66; 2, P Bitok (Ken) 13:10.99; 3, R Denmark (GB) 13:24.39. **3,000m steeplechase:** 1, J Keter (Ken) 8:14.43; 2, J Kandie (Ken) 8:15.20; 3, E Barngetuny (Ken) 8:17.48. **110m hurdles:** 1, E Batte (Cuba) 13.48sec; 2, I Kovac (Slovakia) 13.49; 3, A Jarrett (GB) 13.61. **400m hurdles:** 1, S Matete (Zam) 48.61; 2, S Diagana (Fr) 48.90; 3, R Mashchenko (Russ) 49.07. **High jump:** 1, S Klugine (Russ) 2.28m, equal 2, V Tyrivchnik (Ukr) and M Turban (Est) 2.24; 4, S Smith (GB) 2.24. **Triple jump:** 1, D Kapustin (Russ) 17.38m; 2, J Edwards (GB) 17.35; 3, J Garcia (Cuba) 16.95. **Discus:** 1, L Riedel (Ger) 66.40m; 2, V Alekna (Lith) 65.30; 3, V Kaptiukh (Bela) 63.44. **Women: 200m:** 1, V Fomenko (Ukr) 22.89sec; 2, F Ogunkoya (Nigeria) 22.94; 3, P Davis (Bah) 23.07. **800m:** 1, K Holmes (GB) 1min 58.85sec; 2, O Bouyenko (Ukr) 1:59.93; 3, L Mendez (Br) 2:00.33. **Pole vault:** 1, E George (Aus) 4.30m; 2, A Muller (Ger) 4.20; 3, S Abramova (Russ) 4.00. **Triple jump:** 1, A Hansen (GB) 14.70m; 2, S Kasparkova (Cz) 14.29; 3, G Tchistiakova (Slovakia) 13.81. **Shot:** 1, A Kumbernuss (Ger) 20.51m; 2, V Pavlysh (Ukr) 20.15; 3, Z Huang (China) 19.41.

PRAGUE: International meeting (selected winners): Men: 2,000m: M Suleiman (Qatar) 5min 1.67sec. **110m hurdles:** A Garcia (Cuba) 13.38sec. **Long jump:** I Pedroso (Cuba) 8.60m. **Javelin:** J Zelezny (Cz) 87.52m. **Women: 200m:** J Campbell (Jam) 23.03. **400m:** O Alolabi (Nigeria) 51.08. **1,500m:** I Biriukova (Russ) 4min 5.66sec. **Long jump:** T Vasza (Hun) 6.75m. **Pole vault:** D Bartova (Cz) 4.10m.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 5 Milwaukee 4; Detroit 6 Oakland 4; New York Yankees 12 Chicago White Sox 1; Toronto 8 Seattle 3; Anaheim 6 Kansas City 2; Minnesota 10 Texas 1; Baltimore 7 Boston 2 (first game). Baltimore 4 Boston 2 (second game).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 9 San Francisco 0; Cincinnati 8 Pittsburgh 5; Montreal 8 Philadelphia 5; New York Mets 10 Chicago Cubs 6; Atlanta 8 Colorado 3; Houston 6 Los Angeles 3; San Diego 6 St Louis 5 (12inns)

BASKETBALL

BUDAPEST: Women's European championship: Final round: Group A (in Zalaegerszeg) Lithuania 73 Ukraine 70; Spain 86 Yugoslavia 71; Germany 85 Czech Republic 65. Group B (in Pecs): Russia 68 Moldova 53; Hungary 73 Slovakia 54; Bosnia 97 Italy 79.

CRICKET

TETLEY'S CHALLENGE SERIES (first day of three): **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire v Australians. No play yesterday, due to rain.

COSTCUTTER CUP: Final (55 overs): **Harrogate:** Durham v Gloucestershire. Match abandoned due to rain. Durham won on the toss of a coin.

TOUR MATCH: St John's (final day of three): Sri Lankans 192-6 dec and 398-4 dec (R P Arnold 158, M S Atapattu 118). Leeward Islands 148 (M Muralitharan 4-34) and 128-0 (A Adams 68 not out, J Mitchum 50 not out). Match drawn.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three): **York:** Yorkshire v Sussex. No play, due to rain.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Hurst CC (first day of two): Berkshire 252-6 (S A Seymour 102); Shropshire 179 (N M Kendrick 6-46).

AON TROPHY (one day): **Aston Unity:** Warwickshire 182-9 (A Thomas 4-33); Leicestershire 184-3 (D Stevens 71 not out). Leicestershire won by seven wickets. **Eastbourne:** Kent 177 (R W T Key 56; J J Bates 5-42); Sussex 181-5 (J P Pyemont 52, T A Radford 51 not out). Sussex won by five wickets. **Old Trafford:** Yorkshire 286-7 (A McGrath 78). Lancashire 180 (N T Wood 50). Yorkshire won by 86 runs. **Ebbw Vale:** Somerset 112 (G P Butcher 5-28); Glamorgan 116-4. Glamorgan won by six wickets. **Worksop College:** Durham 178 (D A Blenkiron 52); Nottinghamshire 180-1 (G E Welton 90 not out). Nottinghamshire won by nine wickets. **Shenley:** MCC Young Cricketers 313-6 (P R Shaw 67, N J Thurgood 58); Essex 273-9 (S D Peters 95). MCC YC won by 40 runs. **Sleaford:** Middlesex 265-4 (D J Goodchild 85 not out, K P Dutch 54, D C Nash 52 not out); Minor Counties 229 (R G Hignett 101; T Bloomfield 6-45). Middlesex won by 36 runs.

THE PARKS (first day of three): Oxford University 282-2 dec (J A G Fulton 100, J P Barnes 51 not out); Combined Services 25-1.

BUSA CUP: Semi-finals: Southampton 102; Durham 103-6 (M Barham 6-39). Loughborough 214-7 (A Bourke 92); Chester 169 (J Gilson 58, M Davis 6-64).

CYCLING

DAUPHINE LIBÉRÉ: Second stage (Champagne-au-Mont-d'Or to Le-Puy-en-Velay, 216km): 1, V Yekimov (Russ, US Postal) 6hr 13min 22sec; 2, P Chanteur (Fr, Casino); 3, R Virenque (Fr, Festina); 4, L Dufaux (Switz, Festina); 5, L Brochard (Fr, Festina); 6, A Olano (Sp, Banesto) all same time. **Leading overall positions:** 1, Yekimov 10hr 35min 2sec; 2, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE) at 10sec; 3, Olano 13; 4, Brochard 15; 5, M Boogerd (Holl, Rabobank) 18; 6, C Moreau (Fr, Festina) 19; 32, C Boardman (GB, Gan) 47.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

TOURNOI DE FRANCE: England 0 Brazil 1 (in Paris).

PORTUGUESE CUP: *Final:* Boavista 3 Benfica 2 (in Lisbon)

WORLD CUP: *Oceania zone:* **Second round:** Group one: Australia 13 Solomon Islands 0 (at Sydney). Group two: New Zealand 7 Papua New Guinea 0 (at Auckland).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP: First-round draw: Stranraer v Arbroath; Inverness Caledonian Thistle v Queen of the South; Hamilton v Partick; Stirling v Alloa; Dumbarton v Falkirk; Stenhousemuir v Livingston; Berwick v Montrose; Greenock Morton v Albion; Airdrie v Dundee; Forfar v East Stirling; East Fife v St Mirren; Ayr v Queen's Park; Cowdenbeath v Clydebank; Clyde v Raith. Byes: Ross County and Brechin.

☐ Ties to be played on August 12 and 13

GLIDING

SYERSTON: National 15m championship: Second day (386km quad; 36 completions of 48): 1, A Kay (Ventus 2) 96.7kph, 1,000pts; 2, S Jones (Ventus 2) 95.5, 998; 3, M Young (LS8) 89.6, 930; 4, P Jeffery (LS8) 87.5, 905; 5, D Watt (LS6C) 85.1, 878; 6, G Morris (ASW20) 84.4, 870; 7, J Wilton (ASW20C) 83.1, 856; 8, M Jordy (LS6C) 83, 854; 9, T Scott (LS8) 82.5, 848; 10, S Crabb (LS8) 82.1, 844. **Leading overall positions:** 1, Kay 1,986pts; 2, S Jones 1,994; 3, Watt 1,878; 4, Young 1,802; 5, P Coward (LS8) 1,741; 6, Scott 1,730.

HOCKEY

GRONINGEN, Holland: Men's international: Holland 6 England 2

ENGLAND WOMEN'S PARTY (to play in six nations' tournament, Seoul, late June): K Bowden, P Miller, J Mould, C Voss (all Leicester), K Brown, L Copeland, J Smith, M Nicholls (all Slough), T Cullen, C Reid (both Hightown), D Marston-Smith (Clifton), J Empson (Canterbury), H Rose (University of Massachusetts), J Sixsmith, M Davies (captain, Sutton Coldfield), L Wright (Olton).

POWERBOATING

GUERNSEY: World 2-litre offshore championship (first race of three): 1, U Ingvarsson (Swe) 400pts; 2, P Little (GB) 300; 3, J Pekkonen (Swe) 225; 4, A Staff (Nor) 169; 5, M Mumford (GB) 127; 6, G Montavoci (It) 95; 7, R Smith (Jersey) 71; 8, M Fox (Guern) 53.

SQUASH

CAIRO: Al-Ahram international championships: *Final qualifying round:* S Casteleyn (Bel) bt J Knepp (Aus) 10-15, 15-12, 15-11, 11-15, 15-8; C Wapnick (SA) bt G Whittaker (SA) 14-17, 15-13, 15-12, 15-5; P Marshall (Eng) bt J Davis (Eng) 15-9, 15-2, 15-4; A Shabana (Egypt) bt D Meddings (Eng) 15-11, 15-5, 15-12; J White (Aus) bt W Hatim (Egypt) 15-10, 15-11, 15-5; T Garner (Eng) bt M Zaman Gul (Pak) 11-15, 17-15, 15-12, 14-17, 15-6; A Gough (Wales) bt N Taylor (Eng) 15-12, 15-7, 15-8; D Evans (Wales) bt L Buit (Holl) 17-14, 15-5, 15-10. **First round:** Jansher Khan (Pak) bt J Bonetat (Fr) 15-4, 17-16, 15-10; P Johnson (Eng) bt G Ryding (Can) 7-15, 15-9, 14-15, 15-9, 15-6; S Parke (Eng) bt Zarak Jahan (Pak) 15-13, 15-3, 15-4; A Wagih (Egypt) bt M Cairns (Eng) 15-13, 15-8, 15-8; J Power (Can) bt P Gregory (Gr) 15-14, 15-6, 15-11; Gough bt A Hill (Aus) 15-9, 15-6, 15-4; C Walker (Eng) bt Garner (Eng) 12-15, 15-5, 8-15, 15-8, 15-2; B Martin (Aus) bt O El Borolossy (Egypt) 15-12, 10-15, 9-15, 17-15, 15-9.

MAASTRICHT: Women's Isostar Circuit tournament: Semi-final: J Tranfield (Eng) bt V Atkinson (Holl) 4-9, 9-6, 9-5, 9-6; H van Hoorn (Holl) bt S Macfie (Scot) 10-8, 5-9, 9-7, 9-2. Final: Tranfield bt Van Hoorn 9-1, 9-0, 9-0.

TENNIS

HALLE, Germany: Men's tournament: First round: T Haas (Ger) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6-1, 6-2; N Kiefer (Ger) bt J Grabb (US) 6-3, 6-2; B Becker (Ger) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 6-3, 7-6; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-0, 6-2; N Escude (Fr) bt V Spadea (US) 6-4, 7-6; P Korda (Cz) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2; P Haarhuis (Holl) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 7-6, 6-3; N Kulti (Swe) bt D Vacek (Cz) 7-6, 5-7, 7-6; R Roneborg (US) bt K Braasch (Ger) 6-1, 6-7, 6-3. **Second round:** T Muster (Austria) bt Kulti 6-2, 6-3; J Tarango (US) bt Haas 6-4, 6-4; Korda bt Escude 6-3, 6-3; Becker bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 6-3, 6-4.

BOLOGNA: Men's tournament: First round: D Scala (It) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-4, 7-5; K Alami (Mor) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 6-3, 6-1; O Gross (Ger) bt A Martin (Sp) 6-2, 6-3; F Mantilla (Sp) bt M A Gorriz (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; F Meligeni (Br) bt R Carretero (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; J Diaz (Sp) bt P Fredriksson (Swe) 7-5, 6-1; F Squillari (Arg) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-1, 6-4; N Lapentti (Ec) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-4, 3-1 ret; A Gaudenzi (It) bt G Blanco (Sp) 7-5, 6-4; H Arazi (Mor) bt O Camporese (It) 6-3, 6-2; G Kuerten (Br) bt M Charpentier (Arg) 6-1, 6-3. **Second round:** Lapentti bt Scala 6-7, 6-4, 6-3.

EDGBASTON: DFS Classic women's tournament (GB unless stated): Second round: L Raymond (US) bt S Smith 7-6, 6-4; N Arendt (US) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; D van Roost (Bel) bt L Ahl 7-5, 6-2; S Cacic (US) bt E Callens (Bel) 6-3, 7-6; L Golarsa (It) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 6-3, 6-4; K Kunce (Aus) bt W Probst (Ger) 6-2, 6-1

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS. Treble chance: 24pts £32,461.70; 23 £2,348.85; 22 £28.35; 21 £26.00. HT 21 pts £747.40. 4 draws £35.75. 10 homes £10.60. 6 aways £23.00

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ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,949.45; 23 £100.05; 22 £1.75; 21 £1.60. Three draws (nothing barred) £5.60. 8 homes £1.40. 6 aways £8.40. Lucky Numbers 3-21-7-1-2-10.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, second day of three
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Australians

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire
BASINGSTOKE: Hampshire v Somerset
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Kent
THE OVAL: Surrey v Yorkshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Derbyshire
noon
HOVE: Sussex v Essex

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (second day of three). **Abbotsholme School, Rocester:** Derbyshire v Middlesex. **Wickford:** Essex v Leicestershire. **Ammanford:** Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire. **Finchampstead:** Hampshire v Northamptonshire. **Southport:** Lancashire v Gloucestershire. **Cheam:** Surrey v Worcestershire. **Griff and Coton:** Warwickshire v Durham. **York:** Yorkshire v Sussex

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIAN: Bramham three-day event
GOLF: British women's amateur championship (at Cruden Bay)
HOCKEY: International match: Pakistan v England (at Breda)
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Sheffield v Hull (7.45)
SWIMMING: Scottish national championships (at Glasgow)
TENNIS: Stella Artois tournament (at Queen's Club, London). DFS Classic women's tournament (at Edgbaston)

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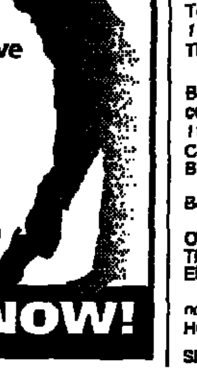

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33/1 L. Janzen
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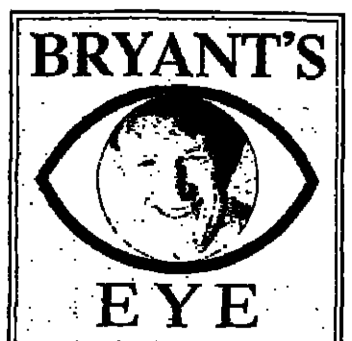
هدية من الاهرام

Madness in any method of trying to beat the weather



It is a brave man who tampers with the rules of sport. And an even braver man who takes on the British weather. Just ask the two bold — some would say foolhardy — statisticians who are trying to change the face of one-day cricket. These two are academics, boffins to the crowds, and they have risen to one of the biggest challenges in cricket — rain.

They are Frank Duckworth, an early-retiring freelance statistical consultant, and Tony Lewis, a mathematician from the University of the West of England. They are spending their summer closeted by their telephones, their Ceefaxes and computers humming at the ready, waiting for the rain to start so that they can rule on the destiny of rain-hit matches.

They have developed "The Duckworth/Lewis method for setting a fair target score in an interrupted limited-overs cricket match", and they say, with utter confidence, that their method is more logical and fairer than any known to cricketing man.

They are probably right, but to the scorer, the player and the spectator, unschooled in the mysteries of statistics, their system is puzzling and has been condemned as number-crunching gobbledegook that leaves everyone baffled. They feel under seige and feel it is time to hit back. They are even said to be wounded by some players referring to it as the "Vera Duckworth method".

Statisticians have always had a marginal and entertaining role in the subculture of cricket. They have been an adornment, providing historical comparisons, unlikely oddities, diverting footnotes. They have been eccentic but endearing anoraks. Now, for the first time, statisticians can influence the outcome of a game.

For all its popularity and excitement, the one-day game remains an artificial creation. It was spawned in England from the dwindling interest in three-day cricket. A limited-overs match could be completed in a day and a result was always achieved; provided, of course, it did not rain. It proved a huge success — no matter that cricket's upper crust looked at it with disdain — and threatened to turn Test cricket into a dinosaur awaiting extinction.

To purists, the one-day game is still an aberration and when you add to its artificiality the computer-aided adjustment of target scores after the intervention of the weather, the result can be so bizarre that the spectator cries "Enough".

Duckworth and Lewis started with the simple premise that a team that knows it has only 20 overs to bat will go at it more furiously than if it had 40. Their formulae and tables make allowances for downpours and showers, taking into account when they occur and the number of wickets that have fallen at the time.

In reality, these two endearing statisticians , the front-line attack in the match between brain and rain, are attempting the impossible. The truth is that they cannot win. For what cricketers, and those who watch them, really want is for games not to be interrupted and for the weather to allow them to be played to their natural conclusion.

Duckworth puts the problem with some elegance. "The ultimate system in one-day cricket," he says, "is simply to play all the overs, no matter what the weather. I would rather see them play cricket under umbrellas, or use lights and covers to complete a game in extra time. But if you have to make allowance for overs lost, our system is the best and the fairest."

It is not the only system in play. In Australia, Lewis says, they use the "discounted most productive overs system", and South Africa has its "Clark curve", but he is convinced that their system is the best and will eventually rule the world. Indeed, it has already been used in the International Cricket Council qualifying tournament for the 1999 World Cup.

Jokes about rain and cricket are as old as the game and whenever a shower disrupts an innings, players and spectators moan about the weather. Duckworth and Lewis have given them a new target for their frustration. They will stop moaning about the rain and moan about the statisticians.

At the root of it all is the refusal to accept that sometimes "rain stopped play" is the only meaningful result possible. Statisrical juggling to get a result, despite the weather, is in the same league as the penalty shoot-out, the sudden-death play-off, the tie-break or the spin of a coin. They are all artificial, all to some extent unpopular and unsuccessful, butat least the shoot-out and the spin of a coin are easily understood. Lewis admits that the system now on trial may leave many perplexed and believes that the best he can hope for is that people get used to it. They are not used to it yet. When the method is used, the complaints flow in.

Typical is one protesting about an "unfathomable" ruling last weekend. It read: "On Sunday Hampshire scored 170 from 33 overs in their Axa Life League match against Derbyshire, but Derbyshire were then told that they had to score 181 runs from the same number of overs to win."

Duckworth and Lewis must be hoping for a long, hot, dry summer. They may be the best statisticians in the business and their system may be logical, elegant and the toast of mathematicians; but the real problem in the one-day game is the rain itself. And even their system cannot stop it raining.

JOHN BRYANT

CRICKET

Lancashire looking for lift from Atherton

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

LANCASHIRE and Kent, ambitious counties with large and demanding memberships, each recruited a new coach from overseas for this summer. One of them can, so far, do no wrong, while the other has rapidly become acquainted with the magnitude of his assignment.

When the clubs meet at Old Trafford this morning, Kent and their new mentor, John Wright, will be looking for a victory that could take them to the head of the Britannic Assurance championship table. Lancashire and their Australian coach, Dav Whatmore, will be seeking points to stay off the bottom.

The contrast does not end there, for Kent have a place in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup, something Lancashire customarily achieve as of routine. This year, they failed even to qualify for the knockout stage. Third place in the Sunday league, in which Kent lie second, must be scant consolation to Whatmore just now.

Lancashire's perennial disaffection with championship cricket is becoming a tired subject. Certainly, the Lancashire players must be tired of constant reminders; though they deserve no respite until they begin to perform as well as a team with their resources and accomplishments should.

They have yet to win this season, after five matches, and although the return of Michael Atherton and John Crawley will theoretically strengthen them today, in practice it may be different. Atherton, especially, finds the process of readjustment increasingly difficult after an emotionally-draining Test match, and for him they come no more draining or fulfilling than Edgbaston.

One man who will not be short of incentives is Dean Headley. He might have been part of the Edgbaston victory but for another untimely injury and he is anxious to reinforce his claim before he crosses the thin dividing line that separates the coming men from those whose chances passed them by.

Headley bowled fast and incisively in Kent's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final win over Northamptonshire on Tuesday and, if his suspect back allows him to play today, has an opportunity to impress both Atherton and the England coach, David Lloyd. The chairman of selectors, David Graveney, will be at Old Trafford tomorrow.

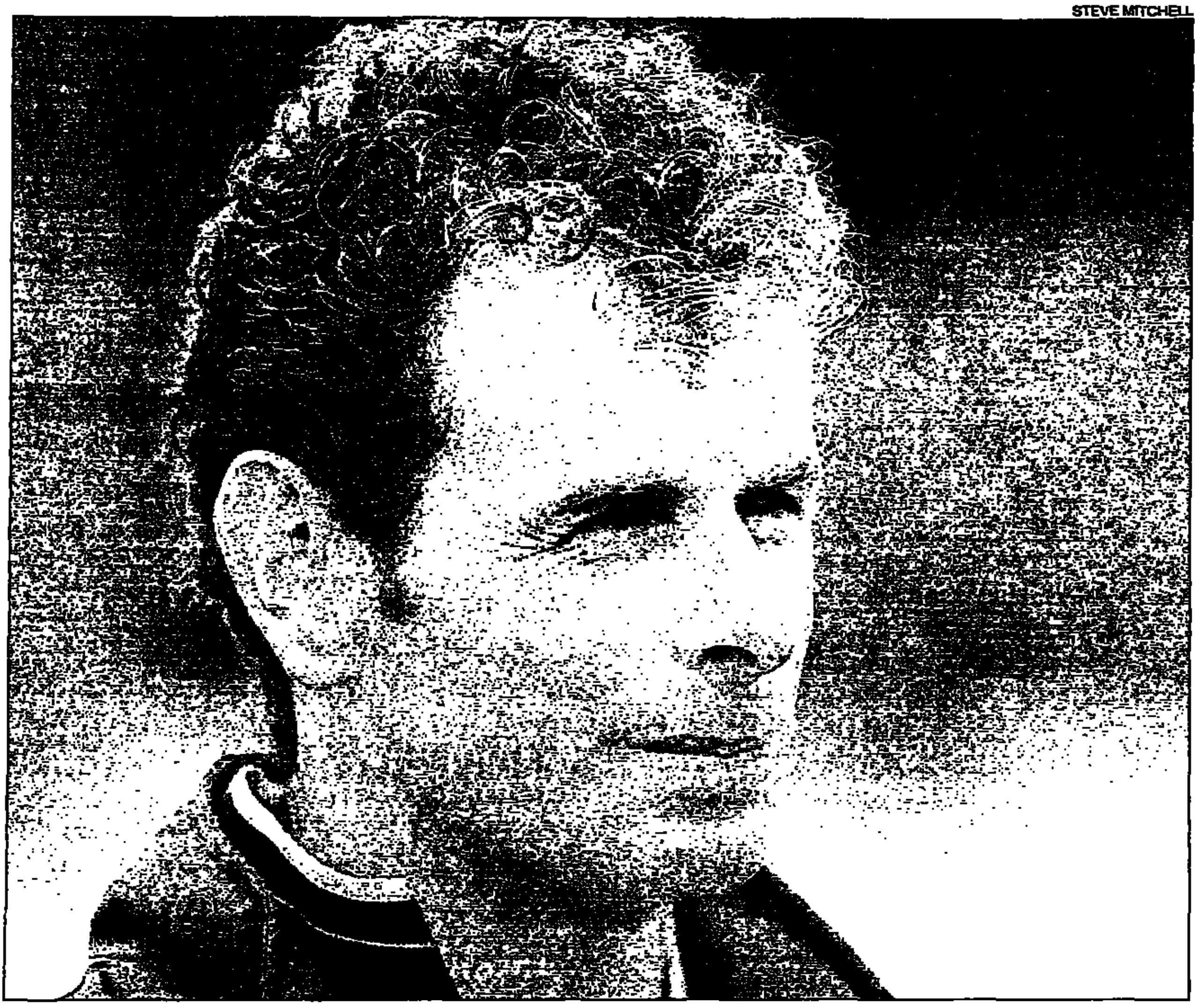
Two members of the England team are rested by their counties today, a welcome sign of the co-operative spirit that comes more easily, perhaps, with a successful national team than one that is failing. Darren Gough, who will continue to be England's most important bowling weapon against Australia, misses Yorkshire's visit to Surrey, who have agreed to give Graham Thorpe the game off.

Having beaten Surrey and Yorkshire in becoming the improbable leaders, Gloucestershire will expect another victory from their home fixture with Worcestershire, whose captain, Tom Moody, returns after suffering back trouble. These are games that Gloucestershire need to win if their romantic challenge is to be sustained.

There is a significant match at Cardiff, between Glamorgan in fifth place and Middlesex fourth and both are contemplating the use of two spin bowlers. At Basingstoke, by way of contrast, a traditionally quick pitch will be attractive for the visiting Somerset attack of Andy Caddick and André van Troost, both passed to play after fitness concerns.

The most progressive events of the round, however, will come at Hove, where play today, tomorrow and on Monday in Sussex's match against Essex will start at noon and continue until 7.30. Sussex wanted to start later still until Essex demurred, but the initiative is a good one, allowing those who work office hours to see a full session of play. It deserves to succeed.

STEVE MITCHELL



Reiffel ponders the vagaries of the Australia selection process as the rain falls at Nottingham yesterday

Australia packs its Pistol after all

Simon Wilde finds Paul Reiffel wet and a bit bemused, but only too eager to fire

OF COURSE, no Englishman should feel sorry for an Australian cricket team, but even the most hard-bitten patriot would concede that things are not going well for our baggy-capped brethren.

When what they most wanted was the chance for their bowlers to spend time in the middle yesterday, Nottingham gave the Australians rain, so much of it that the first day of their match at Trent Bridge was abandoned at 3pm. With only five more days to prepare for the second Test match at Lord's, the Australian itinerary is looking ever more ill-judged.

There were some stony faces in their camp yesterday, as they passed the time writing letters home, jogging the boundary and kicking around a football. The longest face belonged to Andrew Bichel, who was to see a specialist in the afternoon about his hip complaint, and may leave the tour today; the most bemused was that of Paul Reiffel, who has arrived to strengthen their fast-eroding bowling resources.

Just how concerned the Australians are is evident from the decision to include Reiffel in the side to play Nottinghamshire only 24 hours after he stepped off the plane. They want him in contention for Lord's and, but for the rain, he would have bowled yesterday and perhaps enjoyed himself.

The pitch has grass on it and would have suited his style of seam bowling, a style that brought him success here four years ago — he played parts in wins at Headingley and Edgbaston and took 19 wickets in three Tests — and made his omission from the original party such a surprise.

Last week Reiffel was at home in Melbourne with his wife, looking forward to the birth of their child, being "dragged along" to physical training with the Victoria squad and still trying to fathom his omission. His fitness was certainly a factor — he was plagued by hamstring trouble on the recent tour of South Africa — as was Australia's policy, now abandoned, of playing only two seam bowlers.

Reiffel was told of his exclusion by Jim Higgs, a selector. "I had seen it all begin to slip away in South Africa, but was pretty upset and disappointed," Reiffel said. "Everything has happened so quickly that I have not had time to think what it means. I was following what was going on and thought I had a chance when I heard of some of the injuries. I was told I was coming on Saturday, was on the plane on Monday and now I am sitting here. I know I won't get another opportunity to tour England. I am 31 and will be 35 next time we come."

His experience should benefit an attack that knows relatively little about where to pitch the ball on slower English pitches and has so far lacked the spark of inspiration, though his first impressions were not of a team in disarray. "The guys are very professional and one loss is not enough to put them down in the dumps," he said. "I would describe the mood when I walked into the camp as quietly determined."

If "Pistol", as he is known, is to fire, he needs to get overs under his belt, find a rhythm — and some luck. He still wears the revolver-shaped gold earring that his wife gave him in Guyana two years ago. It brought him fortune then, as he took a central role in a historic series win over West Indies, and he has kept it ever since. The Australians could do with it working its magic in the next few weeks.

Emburey calls it a day

JOHN EMBUREY, the former England off spinner, has retired from first-class cricket at 44. During a career that began in 1973 he took 1,608 wickets, scored 12,021 runs and made 64 Test appearances. He won numerous domestic honours with Middlesex.

He is to concentrate more fully on his coaching role with Northamptonshire, although he will continue to play in one-day matches. "It has been difficult combining playing and coaching responsiblities," Emburey said yesterday. "My absence from the championship side should open up more opportunities for our younger players."

Four-year span must remain for World Cup

ALAN LEE

Cricket Commentary

THERE is one more reason for acclaiming the timing of the Edgbaston Test, its passion, public response and sense of theatre. Seeing a match like this, as many of them did, might help persuade the delegates of the International Cricket Council (ICC), who convene at Lord's today, to pull back from a potentially crass and damaging decision.

The annual conference is three weeks early this year, largely because of concentration on the progress of the next World Cup in England, still two years distant but due to have its itinerary unveiled on Tuesday. Fancy profit figures are already being forecast and there is a danger that the representatives will arrive today with pound signs in their eyes.

Commercial potential often speaks louder than cricketing sense, but the meeting will be failing in its duty to the game if it responds positively to a proposal that, in future, the World Cup should be held every two years, rather than every four.

The suggestion is being put by South Africa, anxious to stage the one-day, money-making bonanza at the earliest opportunity. Others will be equally keen for their slice of the action but, before they vote, they should pause for thought.

The potential of cricket must be maximised judiciously, not by grabbing every available corporate dollar. The last World Cup, in India and Pakistan early last year, made a huge profit but only by tackily promoting commercial concerns above the organisation of the fixtures or the welfare of the players.

Sited as it is, the World Cup works well. It has great appeal to sponsors and television companies, of course, but it also stands distinctly above the murky maelstrom of impostors now held around the world.

Double its regularity and you halve the World Cup's significance and impact. It is short-term profit and long-term loss, guaranteed. Soon, it would be virtually indistinguishable from any other event in the calendar of candyfloss cricket — for, always, it is essential to remember that the competition reflects only the short form of the international game.

This same ICC meeting, scheduled to continue until early next week, will also debate the ongoing issue of establishing a Test match championship to resolve the perennial and, up to now, essentially nebulous question of which is the best five-day team in the world.

There is a consensus that it must be done, that the time is right for it. All that remains is identifying the most feasible and attractive method. Four schemes will come before the meeting and probably the likeliest to be adopted is the one that requires the least upheaval.

Countries are suspicious of anything that might involve fixture-making being taken out of their hands. Most will philosophically reject the notion of central direction, which is a profound shame, for it may mean the game will miss the best opportunity of creating an authentic world championship.

It would be possible to devote every fourth year to a Test programme in which all of the nine nations play each other once and maybe twice. At least one of the tabled proposals is constructed on these lines.

This would achieve a fair tournament and an event of such public appeal that even those countries, such as Pakistan, where Test match audiences have been destroyed by the gluttony for one-day cricket, would find crowds being drawn back. England will always sell its Test tickets, so too Australia, South Africa and, increasingly, India, but this could restore the supremacy of Test cricket globally.

It is an enticing prospect, but it would take time and effort. What a pity it would be if this alone dissuaded the meeting, if instead they opted for the cheap, easy and ultimately unfulfilling option of devaluing the World Cup.

'Heroic cricket' spawns heroes aplenty

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Line and Length

Edgbaston holds unhappy memories for Michael Atherton. He captained England for the first time there, against Australia in 1993, and England lost. Two years ago he had to endure an appalling public ear-bashing from a local loudmouth, who demanded his resignation after the West Indies Test finished inside three days.

Last year he was astonished to receive a letter from this man, who said he had lost his job (foghorn operator?), was trying to get into journalism and, ahem, would Atherton consent to an interview that he could then flog to the papers? It is fair to say that that letter is still lying where it landed.

The Birmingham Test last week will be recreated for years to come and nobody will need strong drink to embellish the tale. It is hard to recall a Test that united so many people, whether they are interested in cricket or not, and it may be some time before they all come down to earth.

Everybody talks about 1981, but the rubber was into its third match before that summer caught fire. This was an England performance of rare brilliance at the start of the series against opponents of proven quality. It underlined Atherton's deepest wish. "We don't want heroes. We want heroic cricket."

Memories are selective and, like Pooh-Bah, Lord-High-Everything-Else, I have compiled "a little list".

1. Hussain's double hundred in D Major. His judgment was exemplary and the cleanness of his striking was exceptional. It was the innings of his life.
2. Gough's superb bowling on the first morning and the fourth afternoon. He got Mark Waugh out twice for spit and undid Steve Waugh in the second innings. After a difficult couple of years he is not far from becoming the bowler he always wanted to be. It is good to see an England crickerer enjoying himself so much.
3. Atherton and Lloyd saying as little as possible. After the captain's press conference on Sunday night one scribe thought that "judging by the way Athers spoke, we might have lost by an innings to Sri Lanka". Wrong! He has never been happier, but there are ways of showing it. The less that he and Lloyd say this year, the better.
4. Taylor's grace under pressure. The way he responded to the most intense scrutiny was an extraordinary public confession. The widespread appreciation of his innings by spectators and players alike was a measure of the regard in which he is held. Which brings us to . . .
5. The crowd. There were some daft things sung on Sunday night and even one Mexican wave is one too many, but otherwise it was a rollicking atmosphere. My thanks go, as Cyril Fletcher used to say, to the six lads and lasses in the Rea Bank Stand whose cards spelt out, as requested: H-U-R-R-A-H. Next time, though, please bring an exclamation mark.
6. The batsmen were not the only ones to play a few strokes. There were some spanking ones in the press box. Mike Selvey quoted Eamonn Andrews, Christopher Martin-Jenkins honoured the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha by referring to Edward VII in the first paragraph, but the form prize went to M. C. J. Nicholas of the upper fifth whose essay included the phrase, "Lordy lord, this is dynamite."
7. Blewett's cover drive. An absolute peach.
8. Healy's performance behind the stumps. He kept the Australians alive in the field, even when their heads were barely visible above the rising tide. This is a proper cricketer.
9. Test Match Special confirmed that it has found itself again, after a tricky year or two. Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson gave the coverage something blue to go alongside the light and shade of Agnew and CMJ, who use that rarest of things on radio sport these days, proper English. (Best not to tell Aggers, though. His head's big enough as it is). The crowning moment came on Sunday, when Fred Trueman said that Kerry Packer was "a very nice man".
10. The spirit of the game. The players of both teams showed a respect for the game's customs by applauding the deeds of others and, being led by good men, there is no reason why they should not continue to do so.
11. The betting slip in my wallet, which has £50 on Australia to win the game at 6-4, placed a full hour before the toss. How do you wipe tears away when your eyes are dry?

Harrogate intent on expansion

DESPITE a washout in the Costcutter Cup final yesterday, the Harrogate club unveiled redevelopment plans for the 120-year-old headquarters at St George's Road with unremitting determination (Michael Austin writes).

The project, costing £1.85 million, would turn an adjacent site, unused by the Ministry of Defence for the past two years, into one of the finest sports complexes in the North, including two more cricket arenas, tennis courts, an athletics track and a sports hall.

Harrogate is seeking government aid to persuade the MoD to allocate 15 acres of the 22-acre site lying idle to the local council for a nominal sum. The council lease the present ground to the club and are giving the scheme their full backing.

The final between Durham and Gloucestershire yesterday was settled by the toss of a coin — in favour of Durham, who thus retain the trophy.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

ARSHEEN
(b) A measure of length used in Russia and Turkey. Martyn, *Geographic Magazine*, **1734: "The Arsheen or Russian Ell, equal to twenty-eight and one-tenth inches English."**

WELTBILD
(a) A view life and the world, less tricky to pronounce (and spell) than *Weltanschauung*. **L. Mumford, 1934: "Stieglitz helped restore those values that had been left out of the weltbild of his contemporaries."**

ZYMIC
(c) Pertaining to or connected with fermentation. Applied to a supposed acid (afterwards shown to be impure Lactic acid) obtained by the fermentation of starchy substances. It comes from *zythum*, **the Latin for "beer", and the last word in the big Latin dictionary.**

AORIST
(c) The past tense of Greek verbs. It denotes a simple past occurrence, with none of the limitations to completeness or continuance of other tenses. It corresponds to the simple past tense in English, eg "he loved", not "he was loving" or "he had loved". ***From the Greek for "unlimited".***

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rf7! Kxf7 (Otherwise 2 Rxg7+ will mate quickly) 2 Qh5+ Kf8 3 Rf1+ Nf6 4 exf6 with a crushing attack.

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TENNIS: RESILIENT RUSEDSKI JOINS HENMAN AND LEE IN THIRD ROUND AT QUEEN'S

Chang stitched up by Draper

By Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent

AN encouraging start for the host nation gained further momentum yesterday when Greg Rusedski became the third Briton to advance to the third round of the Stella Artois championships. It was otherwise a day when the big noises took to the grass and Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, failed to flourish in a compelling tussle with Scott Draper.

Defeat came bitterly to Chang, whose game suffered, along with his demeanour, through a succession of disputed line calls. In effortlessly advancing to the first set the American looked poised to emulate Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, who had earlier cruised away from Javier Frana on his reappearance at Queen's. But Draper, evidently made of sterner stuff, rebounded to square the contest in equally convincing fashion.

RESULTS

First round

G Rusedski (GB) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 4-6, 6-4 6-3

Second round

J Golmard (Fr) bt M Rosset (Switz) 7-6, 6-3
M Philippoussis (Aus) bt J Stark (US) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3
P Rafter (Aus) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3, 7-5
B Black (Zim) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-0, 3-6, 6-3
P Sampras (US) bt J Frana (Arg) 6-3, 6-2
B Steven (NZ) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-4, 6-4
G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt L Paes (India) 7-6, 6-3
S Draper (Aus) bt M Chang (US) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6
S Simian (Fr) bt K Flach (US) 6-7, 6-4, 6-2
Rusedski bt K Ullyett (SA) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6

What followed may finally prompt Chang to consider a more aggressive approach to the demands of grass. Chang has worked hard to pep up his serve but his grass-court strategy has changed little, if at all. He has the legs of a pit bull terrier and patrols the baseline as one might guard a house. The problem is that he remains powerless to prevent a break-in through the back door.

Draper, himself more comfortable on clay, simply made the better transition. He followed his service to the net, occasionally suffering from Chang's limitless repertoire of passing shots. But he thoroughly deserved the upset even if Chang, who saved four match points before succumbing, was some way removed from his best. It is ironic that Chang should have come unstuck at the first hurdle after this, his most extensive preparation for the British summer.

After some mundane passages, the match erupted in the tenth game of the decisive set. Chang, trailing 5-4 and by now smarting at umpire and line judges alike, advanced to 40-15 on his service before Draper clawed his way back to the first of eight deuces. Some piercing cross-court backhands gained the Australian four successive match points, each of which Chang repelled before requiring four game points of his own to level the score. The ensuing tie-break offered Chang a fleeting chance, at 6-5, but Draper's nerve sustained him. On Draper's fifth match point, Chang mishit a forehand to sink 7-5, 4-6, 7-6.

Draper, ranked 78th in the world, now plays Rusedski, the sixteenth seed, for a quarter-final berth after the naturalised Briton came through an equally compelling finish to his match with Kevin Ullyett, of South Africa. The credits looked ready to roll on Rusedski, who had failed to convert three earlier match points, when his opponent served for the contest at 7-6 in the deciding tie-break. However, Rusedski summoned courage aplenty to drive a full-blooded backhand past a startled Ullyett. For good measure, he reaped the next point against Ullyett's serve to reach match point himself. With the balls now in hand, he required no second invitation to close out the match 7-5, 4-6, 7-6.

"When I faced match point I thought I would go for my return, rather than chip or block it," Rusedski said. "I felt more relaxed than the previous day [when his match with Mark Woodforde, the Australian, was rained off at 1-1 in the deciding set]. I was lucky to stay in that match and the rain came at a good time for me." Rusedski returned to polish off Woodforde 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Never before has Britain fielded three players among the last 16. Rusedski is joined by Tim Henman and Martin Lee, the youngster from Sussex. Lee learnt yesterday that his opponent would be Goran Ivanivesic, the No 3 seed, who eventually overpowered the touch play of Leander Paes, of India, in straight sets.

After prevailing 7-6, 6-3, Ivanisevic revealed he almost defaulted after a wrist injury rendered him incapable of practising constructively 24 hours earlier. "I couldn't serve properly, I couldn't hit a forehand, but the doctor said my wrist could not get worse," he said. If Lee's assignment appears formidable, he can take heart from Ivanisevic's suspect record against Britons on home soil. Asked about the match, the Croatian reflected: "I have some bad experiences with English players so I stay quiet. He [Lee] beat two good players this week so he can play tennis, that's for sure." Just how well, Ivanisevic will discover today.

GILL ALLEN

Draper celebrates his victory over Chang, the No 2 seed, at Queen's yesterday

Surgeon raises doubts over Graf recovery

By Julian Muscat

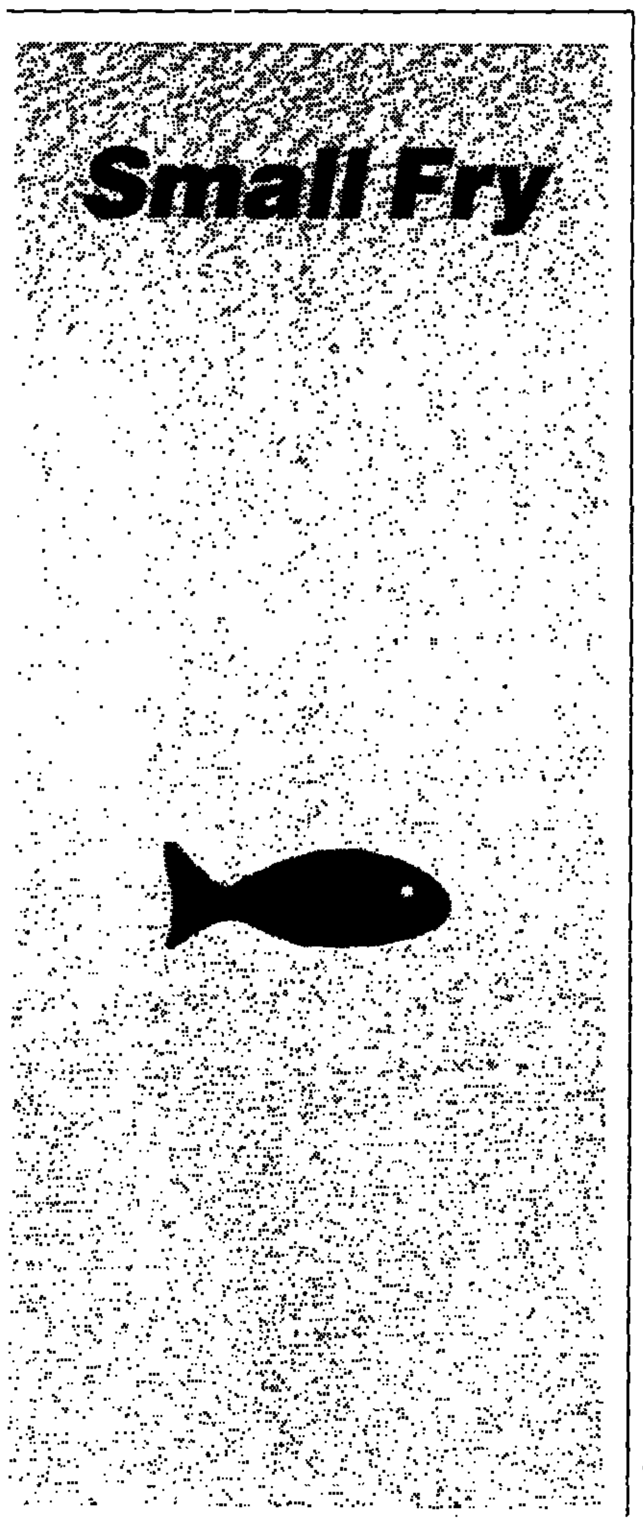
THE surgeon who performed surgery on Steffi Graf said yesterday that he could not guarantee that the seven-times Wimbledon champion's left knee would sufficiently recover to permit her return to competitive tennis.

Dr Reinhard Weinstabl, who operated on Graf in Vienna on Tuesday, tempered Graf's confident prediction of a comeback within six months. He said the prognosis was complicated by Graf's long history of problems with the offending joint. She has already spent three months on the sidelines this year after undergoing arthroscopic surgery in February. Of her return to the tour, Weinstabl said: "That is certainly our aim. Whether that aim can be reached, one cannot say now." He added that the post-operative process was "nothing but an attempt to restore [Graf's health] in an optimal way. The first step has been made".

However, the German Olympic team and tennis federation doctor, Joseph Keul, was more optimistic. "I think Steffi Graf will be 100 per cent again by the end of the year," he said.

For the past 12 months Graf, the reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion, has been plagued by cartilage and tendon damage to her knee. She will miss the defence of both crowns. Given the deterioration in the form of Conchita Martinez, the Wimbledon champion three years ago, Graf's tribulations suggest a new women's champion will be crowned next month.

This injury is the latest in a series of setbacks for Graf, who has won 21 grand-slam titles and more than $20 million in prize-money. A chronic back condition has repeatedly threatened her career, and her father, Peter, was convicted, pending appeal, of tax irregularities in Germany six months ago. She ended 1996 as the world No 1, but was usurped in that position by Martina Hingis in March. With a new generation now populating the women's tennis hierarchy, time is not on Graf's side. She celebrates her 28th birthday tomorrow.



Smith puts up brave fight as British fall

BRITISH hopes ended at the DFS Classic women's tournament at Edgbaston yesterday when Samantha Smith and Lucie Ahl lost their second-round matches.

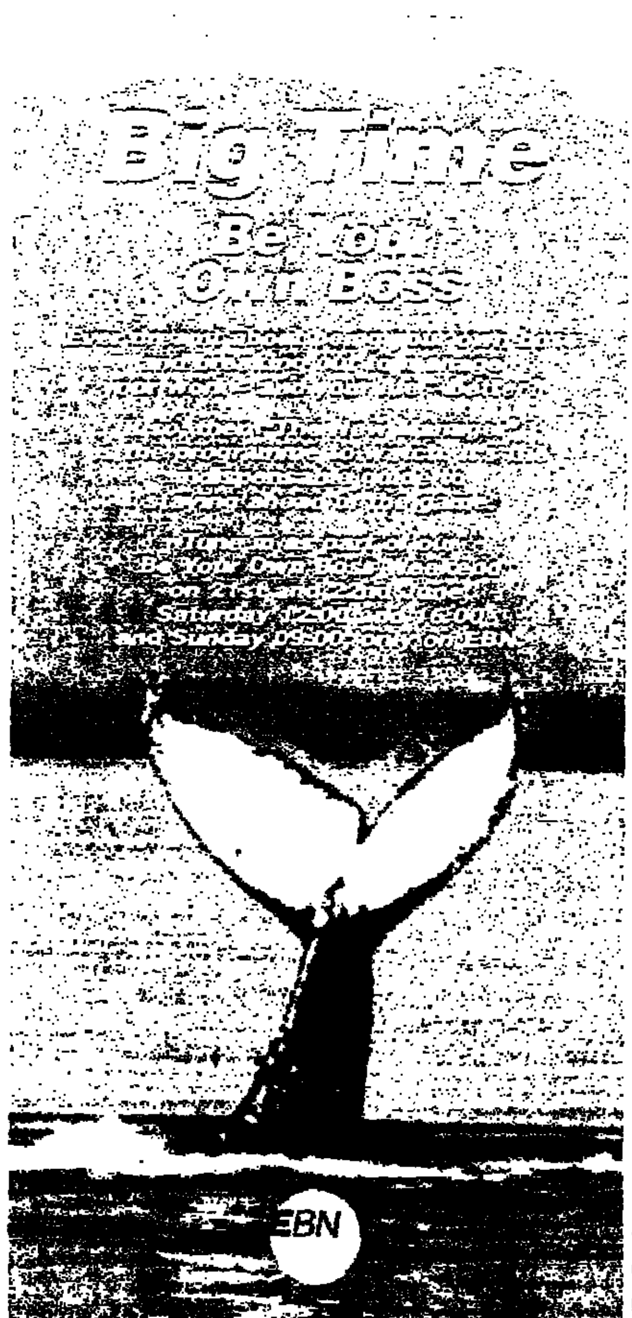
Smith, the British No 1 from Essex, was first to go, losing 7-6, 6-4 to the No 3 seed Lisa Raymond, of the United States. Ahl put up a strong fight, but the experience of Dominique Van Roost, the No 6 seed, proved too much and the Belgian won 7-5, 6-2.

Smith went close to pulling off an upset when she had four set points in the first set and led 4-2 in the second, but Raymond, who last week reached the fourth round of the French Open, turned up the pressure at the right times to win.

"Obviously I'm disappointed with the result, but she played some unbelievable points and I couldn't have done anything more," Smith said. "When she had chances she was able to put big serves in. I wasn't able to raise my game when I needed it."

For Ahl, it was the first experience of taking on a top-100 player: Van Roost was the world No 28 at the start of the week. The Devon player was pleased to find that her level — around the 200 mark — was not too far away from the higher standard. "I didn't really know what to expect," she said. "I was pleased to go out there and compete with her."

☐ Gustavo Kuerten beat Marcelo Charpentier, of Argentina, 6-1, 6-3 in Bologna yesterday in his first match since winning the French Open last weekend.



TELEVISION CHOICE

Crime: it's a mugger's game

Crime Beat
BBC1, 8.00pm

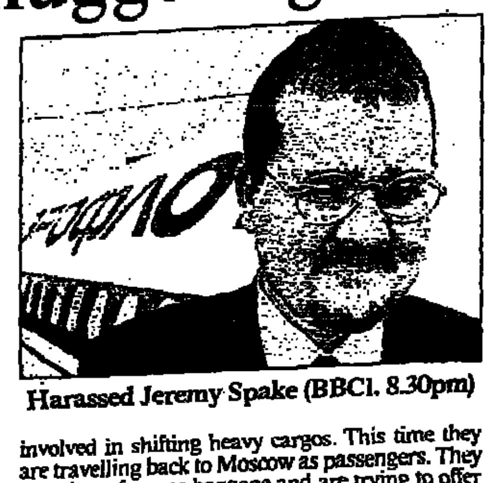
The crime prevention series continues to transmit an upbeat message. The statistics of recorded crime may be rising again after three years of decline but the police are hitting back. Tonight we see them in action against muggers, starting with a perfect operation. A tip-off and surveillance leads to the arrest of three young men seconds after they have snatched a woman's handbag containing £2,000. We also witness dawn raids on suspected persistent offenders and follow a policewoman decoy hoping that muggers will try to steal her expensive-looking watch. The word entrapment may spring to mind and more contentious still is the practice of openly videoing suspects before any crime is committed. But this is the police's show and their PR offensive is slick and persuasive.

Health Alert
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Maintaining the high standard of this series, Shahnaz Pakravan's latest report is about the extent to which the National Health Service relies on charity. On one estimate charity income has reached £500 million a year and pays for 10 per cent of medical equipment. But charity money cannot be relied upon and it is unevenly spread. Pakravan illustrates the point by visiting a high-tech children's intensive care unit in London and a cottage hospital for the elderly in Hampshire. The children's unit is growing apace, thanks to high-profile fund-raising which includes a ball at the Dorchester. But it is much harder to attract money for the care of old people and the cottage hospital may have to close unless £250,000 can be found. Local people are doing their best with dances and fetes but this seems unlikely to be enough.

Airport
BBC1, 8.30pm
(Scotland on Friday)

The Heathrow documentary returns for a new series, interweaving more stories of harassed staff and truculent passengers. Taking most of the flak in tonight's episode is Jeremy Spake, a burly supervisor for Aeroflot. His problem comprises 15 even more burly Russians, an air crew normally involved in shifting heavy cargos. This time they are travelling back to Moscow as passengers. They have lots of excess baggage and are trying to offer inducements to Spake to nod it through. To add to Spake's bad day a palette of engine parts refuses to fit into the cargo hold. Meanwhile Anita Newport, manager of the Royal Suite, is preparing for a red carpet visit from the President of Latvia. But there is trouble with hoisting the Latvian flag. Finally a car fire in Terminal 3 means a busy time for the duty officer, Michelle Harris.



Harassed Jeremy Spake (BBC1, 8.30pm)

Bliss
ITV, 8.30pm

A pilot which drew ten million viewers was bound to result in a series, so back comes Simon Shepherd as the arrogant, insensitive and insecure immunologist, Dr Sam Bliss. After his whingeing Will in *Peak Practice*, Shepherd seems to be cornering the market in unlikeable doctors. The starting point for the opening story is that Dr Sam has spent years trying to develop a vaccine against malaria. But his work looks like being aborted when two of the students taking part in his trials meet mysterious deaths, his lab is shut down and he is suspended. There is, of course, much more to it than that or the series would be over almost before it had started. In what is essentially a medical whodunit, cleverly plotted but needing a clear head to follow all the ramifications, Dr Sam turns detective and uncovers the truth. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Thursday Afternoon Play: Act of Faith
Radio 4, 2.00pm

The forthcoming defence review, announced last week by the Government, will pose the sort of dilemmas that this play examines, albeit in a different field. Defence means jobs, ergo cuts in defence mean a loss of jobs. The nuclear industry is also a big employer, therefore employees and management have a vested interest in giving the industry a good public image. David Napthine's thriller about the dichotomy between dark secrets and the needs of the economy is something of a coup for the BBC and perhaps for Sellafield, the nuclear power plant in Cumbria around which the play is set. *Act of Faith* was recorded in the area and inside Sellafield, the first time British Nuclear Fuels has given access to the plant for such a purpose.

Another String: Of Burning Gold
Radio 4, 8.45pm

I cannot claim to be much of an enthusiast for the bow and arrow, and archery competitions do not have me sprinting hot foot to their venues. However, Robert Hardy is an actor whose very voice sweeps all argument away in a wave of enthusiasm and I just hope he never switches to selling timeshare or double glazing. This series about the private interests of people famous in a different field talks to Hardy about archery. He caught the bug while visiting Agincourt to research the role of Henry V in 1960. The yew is apparently the perfect longbow wood. Hardy's house in Scotland is filled with bows, the firing of which he sees as not unlike delivering lines from a stage. Theatre critics be warned. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Movie Update **8.40** John Peel **10.30** Claire Sturgess **1.00am** Dave Pearce **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Chris Serle **7.00** David Allan's Country Club **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Randy Crawford — The Celebrity Soul Show **9.30** The What If Show **10.00** Shelley (4/6) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Julian Worricker Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** On the Line **8.00** David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Includes a review of England's victory over Australia in the first Test of the Ashes series **9.00** Inside Edge **10.00** News Talk with Paul Reynolds **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours with Vincent Hanna **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **6.00am** Newsday **6.30** Europe **7.15** World Today **7.30** Meridian Books **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Composer of the Month **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Turning a Tune **9.30** Hot New Country **10.05** Business **10.15** A Private View **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Discovery **12.30pm** Born a Girl **12.45** F.O.O.C **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain **1.30** Record News **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: X-Press **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** Turning a Tune **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain **6.05** Business **6.15** World Today **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.30** Assignment **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** John Peel **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain **10.30** Meridian Books **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Vintage Chart Show **1.30** Turning a Tune **1.45** Britain **2.30** The Works **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata **8.00** Evening Concert. Ireland (A London Overture; Sea Fever; Piano Concerto in E flat major); Handel (Concerto No 1 in B flat), Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1); Bridge (Rosemary, The Turtle's Retort); Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Lunchtime Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Introduced by Penny Gore. Includes Hummel (Septet in C, Op 114), Marais (Pieces en Trio in E minor); Caplet (Septet), Cavalli (Salve Regina); Sibelius (The Flowers, Op 85); Holst (St Paul's Suite)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Bach, orch Stokowski (Toccata and Fugue in D minor); Mozart (Fantasia and Sonata in C minor), Rachmaninov (The Rock)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Kirsteen McCue. Includes Honneger (Intrada); Purcell (Theatre Music, selection), James Wilson (For Cliodhna), Bliss (Film music, Things to Come), Bernart de Ventadorn (Can Vei la Lauzeta Mover), Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor), Anon, 13th Century (Orkney Wedding Song); Purcell (Te Deum and Jubilate, Z232)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Ravel
1.00pm Verismo Voices. Gordon Stewart introduces the final selection from Italian Verismo opera. Includes excerpts from *Cavalleria Rusticana, Tosca, Andrea Chénier, Francesca da Rimini* and *Adriana Lecouvreur*. Featuring performances by Cosotto, Raimondi, Scotto, Gobbi, Muzio, Price, Olivero and Corelli (4/4)
2.00 To Johannes Brahms. Featuring music by Brahms and works dedicated to him by his friends and admirers. Includes a recital by Margaret Fingerhut, piano. Novak (Eclogues, Op 11), Busoni (Etudes en Forme de Variations), Brahms (Two Rhapsodies, Op 79)
2.45 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Mark Wigglesworth. Robert Cohen, cello. Wagner (Prelude, Act 1, Parsifal) Shostakovich (Cello Concerto No 1); Sibelius (Symphony No 2)
4.15 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by the Endellion Quartet. Britten (Three Divertimenti); Bartok (String Quartet No 4) (r)
5.00 The Music Machine: Music at the Globe Verity Sharp talks to Philip Pickett, the musical director at the Globe Theatre
5.15 In Tune. Humphrey Carpenter introduces two operas from Garsington Opera's current season. Includes Bach (Cantata No 196, Der Herr Denket an Uns), C.P.E. Bach (Symphony Wq 182 No 4 in A), Strauss (Die Agyptische Helena, excerpts), Mozart (Cosi Fan Tutte, excerpts)
7.30 Ravel: Through the Looking Glass. Live from the Barbican Centre, London. The London Symphony Orchestra, conductor Andre Previn. Le Tombeau de Couperin; Rapsodie Espagnole **8.05** Ravel the Man. Roger Nichols discusses the composer with his friends and colleagues **8.25** Concert, part two. L'Heure Espagnole. Frederica von Stade, soprano, John Mark Ainsley, tenor, George Gautier, tenor, Kurt Ollman, baritone and David Wilson-Johnson, bass
9.35 In Translation: Santa Evita by Tomas Eloy Martinez, translated from the Spanish by Helen Lane. The book is part historical narrative, part detective story and part philosophical treatise
10.00 Music Restored. Andrew Manze introduces a recital of music by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, J.S. Bach's talented son, played by the American fortepianist Richard Fuller
10.45 Night Waves. Michele Roberts reviews the premiere of a new piano concerto by Judith Weir
11.30 Composer of the Week: Dvořák Abroad (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Dave Gelly introduces songs by Manhattan Transfer and Frank Sinatra
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite and his team of investigators (r)
9.30 Relatively Speaking. In the first of a four-part series looking at family relationships, Bruce Reynolds, one of the great train robbers, and his son Nick, talk about life on the run from the authorities
10.00 News; Travels with My Aunt, by Graham Greene. Starring Dame Hilda Bracket (4/5)
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. News from BBC reporters around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Slightly Foxed. A literary quiz chaired by Gill Pyrah. With Simon Brett, Frank Delaney, Professor Lisa Jardine and John Walsh **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Act of Faith. See Choice. Starring Barbara Marten, Bill Speed, Blair Plant and Beth Wightman
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen reviews the musical *Always*, based on the relationship between Edward and Mrs Simpson. Plus a look at David Greig's play, *Caledonia Dreaming*
4.45 Short Story: The Red Jag. Written by Ray French and read by Iestyn Jones
5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Taking It Up the Octave. A new five-part drama by Fintan Coyle and Tom Miles. Opera Sunderland has a tradition of performing a new work every season but when the managing director opts for *West Side Story* rather than an innovative gay opera, tempers get lost
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Dancing in Dead Men's Shoes. Simon Dring meets President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea and some of the people who fought for nearly 30 years for their independence
8.00 Analysis. Professor Peter Clarke explores the implications of constitutional change, especially Scottish and Welsh devolution. Will the Government's plans lead to the federalisation of Britain, or even its break-up?
8.45 Another String. See Choice (3/6)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sandy Bottom Orchestra, by Garrison Keillor and Jenny Lind Nilsson. Read by Barbara Barnes (4/10)
11.00 Today in Parliament (LW). A roundup of the day's news from Westminster
11.00 Fun-Filled Days of Harriet Knight (FM). The second of a four-part comedy series by Carol Noble with Emma Chambers, Jane Whittenshaw and Tom Watt
11.30 Offspring. Another whimsical look at family life with John Peel (r)
12.00 News and **12.30am The Late Book: The Information,** by Martin Amis. Read by William Nighy (9/15) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Parenthood is tough? You're not kidding

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

Now that **Reputations** (BBC2) has tugged enough loose threads to unravel Dr Spock's standing as a childcare guru, don't you find it spooky that both the world's known Spocks have led lives of public adulation, but private torment? Maybe it's a curse. It certainly *sounds* like a curse ("Hey, Spock off, mister!").

Leonard Nimoy was so depressed by what he saw as the unlovable persona of Mr Spock, the logical Vulcan with pointy ears on the *Starship Enterprise*, that he even wrote a book called *I Am Not Spock* (nobody believed him). After seeing a pilot episode of *Star Trek* in 1968, even NBC's marketing people felt for him. As Nimoy once explained, "The concept in those days was that each of the major characters in a television series had to fulfil a very specific function, and that was to attract a specific portion of the audience which would identify with them. The mothers had to be attracted to the ladies in the show. The fathers had to be attracted to the leading man, see him as a potential and desirable friend. There was usually a child thrown in for the kids, and an animal for the pet lovers. All this led the marketing types to ask themselves, 'Who the hell's going to identify with the guy with the pointy ears?' "

Now we learn that the gulf between the public and private Benjamin Spocks was just as painful. Spock's Freud-flavoured book, *Baby And Child Care*, has sold 24 million copies. Published in 1946, it fell on a grateful nation knee-deep in nappies filled by the postwar baby boom. The book struck them as a revelation and a liberation. It promoted a new kind of relationship between parents and children. It said love was more important than discipline, and natural instincts more important than strict rules (though obviously not the natural instinct to shovel your baby into the washing machine when it wakes, screaming, for the fourth time that night).

So what did pre-Spock parents think? They thought what people like John Watson, author of *Psychological Care Of Infant And Child*, advised them to think, which was to treat children "as young adults. Never hug and kiss them. Never let them sit in your lap. If you must, kiss them once on the forehead when they say goodnight. You will soon be ashamed at the sentimental way you have been handling it."

But while Dr Spock and his new ideas floated on a sea of public adulation, he still bore the private scars of his own childhood. He was raised by a mother who fed her six children nursery food until they were 13, and who kept her boys in short trousers until they were almost ready to shave. "I was scared of my mother and my father," he tells us in one of the many old television clips that season Ella Bahaire's film. "I was scared of other boys on the way to school. I was scared of barking dogs."

Maybe this explains why it was that whatever Dr Spock preached to the world, what he practised in his own home would have got the blessing of John Watson. His sons grew up with the invidious pressure of being the children of the world's top childcare guru: if they weren't happy, what hope was there for other children? As it turns out, they weren't happy. Spock's son, John, recalls that his father had "never been a person who gave me a hug. He couldn't kiss me. He *never* kissed me."

Bahaire's film doesn't make clear what it thinks about this. Is the unhappiness of Spock's children a case of nobody being worse shod than the shoemaker's wife? Was Spock too busy tutoring other parents to be a thoughtful parent himself? Bahaire paints Spock as a hypocrite, an idol with feet of clay. But what if it was precisely *because* Spock saw his own shortcomings — that his childhood made him the distant father he was — that he forged a new approach to child-rearing? If that is the case, does he deserve to be pilloried? Or to be praised?

John Spock thinks neither: "My father is very much like his mother. I know, from my own experience with my children, that I'm very much like my father, and that this whole process of behaviour cascading down the generations is not something that we can mould and change just by the desire to do so. You can't just be a different person from the person you were raised." Sounds suspiciously like: "Spock off, dad!"

If that is true, then it's a big blow to Joyce and David in Lancashire. In last night's second slice of **Trouble With Boys** (BBC2), we saw them put their faith in a pioneering American therapy to turn their aggressive, thieving, 12-year-old delinquent son Paul into something approaching a human being. Daily life in this household would petrify many war correspondents.

Arguments descend from a cloudless sky like enemy shells. Within seconds, emotional shrapnel has bloodied every member of the family. After a few weeks of following rules of engagement devised by an American delinquency expert, Paul seems to be making progress. Then, from nowhere, comes the whine of a shell, and it has Joyce's name on it: "Will you stop calling me a stupid bitch? You're a bloody brat. You're not going to get better. How can you get better? It's like asking Jack the frigging Ripper to get better, or the bloody Mad Axeman. You're a nutter, lad!" Shortly afterwards, the therapist arrives for the next session. "We had a bad day today," says Joyce, in a deafening, war-weary whisper.

So, 50 years after Spock — like Moses — led parents to the promised land, they are again all at sea. Maybe babies just mutate, like those bacteria which become resistant to traditional antibiotics.

6.00am Business Breakfast (57831)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (52299)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5726560)

9.20 Cheggers' Challenge (3645744)

9.45 Kilroy Studio debate (9199851)

10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (54819)

11.00 News (T) and weather (2250893)

11.05 Real Rooms (7167893)

11.30 The Great Escape (7580)

12.00 News (T) and weather (1727218)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (5929522)

12.35 Neighbours (T) (4790638)

1.00 News (T) and weather (55386)

1.30 Regional News (15854909)

1.40 The Weather Show (36059928)

1.45 The Virginian (4117788)

3.00 International Tennis Further action from the Stella Artois Championships where the players will be trying to secure a place in the quarter-finals (1096)

4.00 Popeye (7286611) **4.10** Plasmo (1886675) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5570638) **4.35** Return to Jupiter (6085218) **5.00** Newsround (T) (8790831) **5.10** The Biz (7457034)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (03675)

6.00 News (T) and weather (763)

6.30 Regional News (265)

7.00 Watchdog Healthcheck Alice Beer puts more medical matters under the microscope, with reports from John Nicolson, Angela Rippon and Toyah Willcox (T) (2980)

7.30 EastEnders Nigel helps Dot face up to her past and Bianca warns Tiffany she's playing with fire. The future looks bleak for Huw and Lenny as their tenancy agreement comes under scrutiny (T) (299)

8.00 CHOICE **Crime Beat: Street Crime** Report on how police are attempting to stop muggers in their tracks by using decoy officers to collar opportunist thieves (T) (8928)

8.30 CHOICE **Airport** Documentary series behind the scenes at Heathrow Airport (T) (4873)

9.00 News (T) and weather (9015)

9.30 999 Stories of real-life heroism, including the helicopter rescue of a young woman who plunged 180ft down a cliff face and how two teenagers saved their parents following a serious car crash on the motorway. Plus, the rescue team who risked their lives to help a man trapped in quicksand (T) (985015)

10.20 Noel's Le Mans Dream First of two programmes following Noel Edmond's racing team as they bid to win the 24-hour eudurance race at Le Mans (194638)

10.50 Question Time David Dimbleby chairs the debate as public figures discuss questions raised by members of the public in Newcastle (7181096)

11.55 The Sicilian (1987) with Christopher Lambert, Terence Stamp, Joss Ackland and John Turturro. FILM Melodrama charting the rise and fall of a Sicilian bandit, whose heroic support of the oppressed peasantry is cut short by the treachery of his friends. Michael Cimino's adaptation of Mario Puzo's novel (883454)

1.45am Weather (6703684)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am O U: New Formulae for Food (3314270) **6.25** Restoring the Balance (3333305) **6.50** Control in Reproduction (7334034)

7.15 See Hear News (T) (1043015)

7.30 Teenage Turtles (r) (T) (6968909) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (2143270) **8.20** Fireman Sam (r) (4602027) **8.35** The Record (2700386) **9.00** Lifeschool (3623522) **9.25** Geography Programme (5710909) **9.45** Watch Out (4215638) **10.00** Teletubbies (30791) **10.30** Storytime (4182657) **10.45** The Experimenter (9069893) **11.05** Space Ark (2271386) **11.15** Zig Zag (5313657) **11.35** Landmarks (4575812) **12.00** Teaching Today (86183) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (13725) **1.00** Lifeschool (10403831) **1.25** Human Rights, Human Wrongs (90913763) **1.35** Job Bank (r) (15844522) **1.45** Numbertime (15864386) **2.00** Fireman Sam (83641638)

2.10 International Tennis Coverage of the Stella Artois Championships. Continued on BBC1 (3824034) **3.00** News (T) (3955270) **3.05** Westminster (T) (4833980) **3.55** News (T) (3136909)

4.00 International Tennis from Queen's (9657)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (T) (816198)

6.45 Gardeners' World Live At the National Flower and Garden Show (401812)

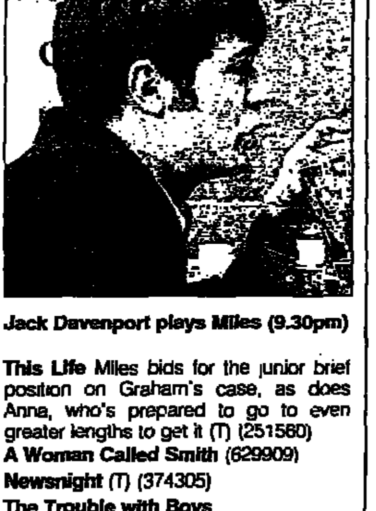
7.15 They Who Dare: Snowboarding (T) (498725)

7.30 East Report on how a Muslim sect being persecuted in Pakistan is fighting back. Plus, the experiences of Asians in the police force and an investigation into the motives of a British millionaire who has adopted a Nepalese boy and a landmark case that may change the Asian practice of dowry. Last in series (541)

8.00 Out and About (9270) **WALES:** Homeland

8.30 Tracks Guide to the countryside (T) (8305)

9.00 Absolutely Fabulous (r) (T) (7657)



Jack Davenport plays Miles (9.30pm)

9.30 This Life Miles bids for the junior brief position on Graham's case, as does Anna, who's prepared to go to even greater lengths to get it (T) (251580)

10.15 A Woman Called Smith (629909)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (374305)

11.15 The Trouble with Boys Northamptonshire teenagers confront the victims of their crimes (3/3) (772812) **11.45** Picture House (607560) **11.55** Holiday Weather (139744) **12.00** The Midnight Hour (25042)

12.30am Learning Zone: O U: South Korea **1.00** *Visioning in Action* **1.30** Images Over India **2.00** Health and Safety at Work **4.00** Speaking Our Language/French on a Plate **5.00** The Small Business Programme

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6.00am GMTV (9505947)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (r) (3653763)

9.55 Regional News (T) (4347096)

10.00 The Time, the Place (34305)

10.30 This Morning (T) (65791676)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (1716102)

12.30 News (T) and weather (4719763)

12.55 Shortland Street (4794454) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (90997725) **1.50** Afternoon Live (31351980) **2.20** Vanessa: Baby Snatchers (r) (T) (26851812) **2.50** Afternoon Live (2494831)

3.20 News (T) (3962560)

3.25 Regional News (T) (3961831)

3.30 The Riddlers (r) (3789218) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (8635299) **3.50** Rupert (5352454) **4.15** Transylvania Pet Shop (T) (9096893) **4.40** Sweat (T) (6311928)

5.10 A Country Practice (8694928)

5.37 HTV Crimestoppers (757560)

5.40 News (T) and weather (279831)

5.57 Pollen Count (744096)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (571788)

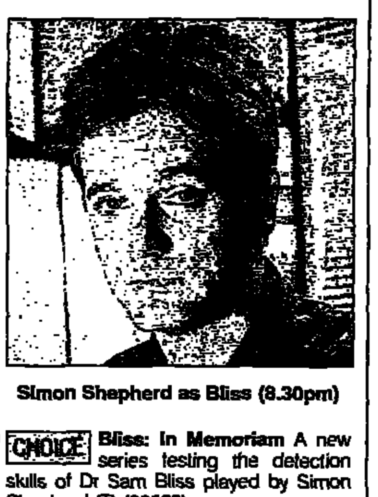
6.25 HTV Weather (906909)

6.30 The West Tonight (T) (183)

7.00 Emmerdale Dean's father visits Tony and makes it clear he is willing to be paid to keep quiet (7676)

7.30 3-D Scrutinising the increasingly common police practice of media appeals by emotional relatives, who turn out to be the guilty party. Plus, how the traditional practice of elver-fishing on the River Severn has been disrupted by violence and intimidation as prices for the delicacies soar (T) (367)

8.00 The Bill A journalist claims he acted in self-defence to stop an intruder (T) (3096)



Simon Shepherd as Bliss (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Bliss: In Memoriam** A new series testing the detection skills of Dr Sam Bliss played by Simon Shepherd (T) (33560)

10.00 News (T) and weather (81638)

10.30 Regional News (T) (749725)

10.39 Pollen Count (105229)

10.40 The West This Week James Garrett reports on the opening of an inquiry on three senior doctors who face being struck off over the deaths of small children during heart surgery (101386)

11.30 Frieze Frame (T) (606831)

11.45 Highlander (207454)

12.35am In Bed with MeDinner (5546049)

1.05 Funny Business (1805058)

1.35 cyber.cafe (1451874)

2.05 Late and Loud (r) (6598313)

3.05 3-D (r) (T) (37610042)

3.35 The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (9483139)

4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (84868)

5.00 Garden Calendar (r) (T) (53400)

5.30 News (20597)

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4794454)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8694928)

6.25 Central News (626837)

6.55-7.00 Lifeline (984947)

10.40 Pulling Power (250980)

11.10 Millionaires (104638)

11.40 New York News (775270)

12.40am Funny Business (4141290)

1.10 Ed's Night Party (1804329)

1.40 Club Nation (8685145)

2.35 The Loop (2132145)

3.05 Late and Loud (1610665)

4.00 Central Jobfinder '97 (3641936)

5.20 Asian Eye (4327597)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (5906251)

1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (23263638)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8694928)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (18270)

10.30 Westcountry News (763305)

10.45 Special Report (779725)

11.15 Roadrunner (776638)

11.45 New York News (207454)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (8694928)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (831)

6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (183)

10.45 Film: Victim of Beauty (92502522)

5.00am Freescreen (53400)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (4794454)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8694928)

6.25 Anglia News (626837)

6.55-7.00 What's On (984947)

10.40 The Road Show (250980)

11.10 Go Fishing (104638)

11.40 New York News (501294)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (40541)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (45909)

9.00 Bewitched (91015)

9.30 Ysgolion (772725)

12.00pm House to House (71251)

12.30 Ricki Lake (18003)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (10405299)

1.15 Deri Deg (10493454)

1.30 Film: Jesse James (44560)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (589)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (116)

4.30 Absolutely Animals (980)

5.00 5 Pump (5454)

5.30 Countdown (560)

6.00 Newyddion 6 (644657)

6.05 Heno (476314)

6.35 Sion a Sian (913299)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (134015)

7.25 Sgrin Ti Syniad? (697541)

8.00 Pobl y Chyff (1638)

8.30 Newyddion (3473)

9.00 The Jewel in the Crown (9367)

10.00 Film: Tom and Viv (76092218)

12.20am Dispatches (9802941)

1.05 NBA Finals (7351690)

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (40541) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (45909) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (91015)

9.30 Schools: Equinox Plus (7836638) **10.25** Geographical Eye (3292562) **10.45** The English Programme (5812541) **11.30** The English Programme (3218)

12.00 House to House Political magazine (71251)

12.30pm Light Lunch (34947)

1.30 The Small Back Room (1948, b/w) FILM David Farrar stars as a crippled Second World War bomb disposal officer. Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger (44560)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (589)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One Quiz (T) (116)

4.30 Countdown (T) (6079657)

4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5254725)

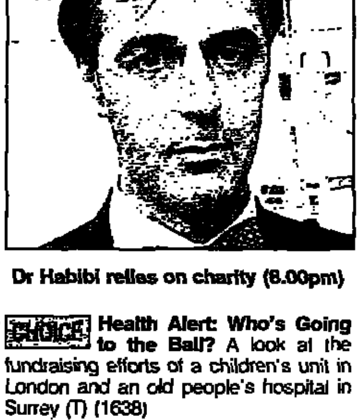
5.30 Animal Passions In the last of the series John Nettles visits the Exeter Equestrian Centre (T) (560)

6.00 Springhill Trish decides to move in with Eva (T) (473)

6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (725)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (635676)

7.50 Sonnets in the City (T) (833034)



Dr Habibi relies on charity (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Health Alert: Who's Going to the Ball?** A look at the fundraising efforts of a children's unit in London and an old people's hospital in Surrey (T) (1638)

8.30 All at Sea The last in the series following the maiden voyage of the cruise liner *Carnival Destiny*. As the maiden voyage comes to an end, passengers make new friends and below-deck relationships continue (T) (3473)

9.00 Dispatches How Hong Kong business leaders have made compromises in order to adapt to Chinese rule (T) (222522)

9.45 Short and Curlies: Take Pity A young widow repeatedly refuses the help of an older man. Starring Juliet Aubrey and Ron Moody (T) (689367)

10.00 Father Ted: And God Created Women A steamy novelist (Gemma Craven) comes to stay on the island and Father Ted is not sure why she finds him attractive (r) (T) (680218)

10.35 Northern Exposure: Lucky People Michelle and Phil realise they have made a dreadful mistake (T) (827812)

11.30 Weekly Planet A topical discussion series chaired by Jon Snow begins with a look at the future of European Union (1/9) (167928)

1.05am NBA Finals (7351690)

2.05 The Death of Childhood (r) (T) (6596955)

3.05 Memento Joan Bakewell talks to J.G. Ballard (r) (37618684)

3.35 Schools (r) (T) (314139)

5.00 Off Limits (r) (T) (1131085)

5.25-6.00 Backdate (r) (T) (4602232)

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (4000265)

7.30 Havakazoo (3445183) **8.00** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8654183) **8.30** WideWorld. The survival of the 17th-century architecture in Richelieu in the Poitou region of France and Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire (8653454)

9.00 Espresso (7949170) **10.00** Exclusive! (r) (1540251) **10.30** The Great Garden Game (r) (8673218)

11.00 Leeza (1887386) **11.50** Double Espresso (54141873) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8657270) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (9214611)

1.00 5 News (52822589) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (9721725) **2.00** 5's Company (8378725)

3.30 Jesse (1988) with Lee Remick, Scott Wilson and Richard Marcus. FILM The true story of a nurse who was prosecuted for practising medicine without a licence. Directed by Glenn Jordan (1252386)

5.20 5's Company — Late Extra (99840638)

5.30 100 Per Cent (7149305)

6.00 Whittle (T) (7146218)

6.30 Family Affairs Claire rehearses her lap-dancing techniques (T) (7120270)

7.00 Exclusive! Showbiz news (6293305)

7.30 Land of the Lion: Nature's Wing Three-Quarter A feature on the springbok, a creature that has few equals when it comes to sprinting, swerving and leaping (T) (7126454)

8.00 Nancy Lam An unusual menu of pineapple soup, banana boat parcels and a "glutton" vegetable curry (T) (6279725)

8.30 5 News (T) (6281560)

The eternal triangle (9.00pm)

9.00 Revenge (1990) with Kevin Costner, Madeleine Stowe and Anthony Quinn. FILM Dark drama about the violent conflict between two men, one of whom is in love with the other's wife. Directed by Tony Scott (T) (6327454)

11.00 The Jack Docherty Show The guests include Joan Rivers (6004299)

11.45 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Comedy panel game with Fred Macauley and Lee Hurst (r) (5816473)

12.15am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine includes Major League Soccer from America (92626077)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3433232)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6494085)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (195947) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (10812) **10.00** Another World (79980) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (99744) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (49164) **1.00pm** Geraldo (58812) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55812) **3.00** Jenny Jones (81676) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (60183) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (2763) **6.00** Real TV (5725) **6.30** Married — with Children (9305) **7.00** The Simpsons (1544) **7.30** M*A*S*H (5589) **8.00** Third Rock from the Sun (9812) **8.30** The Nanny (8947) **9.00** Seinfeld (86357) **9.30** Mad About You (40893) **10.00** Chicago Hope (22706) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (87909) **12.00** The Lucy Show (58394) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (15145) **1.00** Hit Mix (1419665)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (4916015) **7.30** Superboy (8413015) **8.00** Sliders (6183909) **9.00** Highlander (6196473) **10.00** Tek War (6199560) **11.00** Late Show with Letterman (7431386) **12.00** Hit Mix (2507042)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Homeward Bound (1990) (34638) **8.00 The Wrong Box (1966)** (46164) **10.00 Canadian Bacon (1994)** (98637015) **11.45 The Southern Star (1969)** (858386) **1.45pm The Stone Boy (1984)** (717305) **3.15 The Chairman (1969)** (53150560) **5.00 Homeward Bound (1990)** (49676) **7.00 Canadian Bacon (1994)** (76293) **9.00 Fugitive from Justice: Underground Father (1996)** (83292102) **10.45 Knightrider 2010 (1995)** (64891657) **12.20am Vanishing Son IV (1994)** (1565752) **1.50 Harrison: Cry of the City (1995)** (5844042) **3.20 The Stone Boy (1984)** (65761787)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Brasher Doubloon (1947) (25980) **8.00 Born to be Wild (1995)** (77034) **10.00 In Old Kentucky (1935)** (62015) **12.00 Mayday at 40,000 Feet (1976)** (67657) **2.00pm The Hanging Tree (1957)** (85980) **4.00 Munchie Strikes Back (1995)** (2909) **6.00 Born to be Wild (1995)** (84798744) **7.40 US Top 10** (949034) **8.00 Houseguest (1995)** (19698812) **9.50 The Movie Show** (839164) **10.20 Jade (1995)** (833164) **12.00 Emmanuelle V (1986)** (1650874) **1.25am A Family Divided (1994)** (589665) **3.00 The Wrong Woman (1995)** (5717521) **4.35 In Old Kentucky (1935)** (9089771)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Killer's Kiss (1955) (96337473) **7.10 Battle of the Bulge (1965)** (37370367) **10.00 Hard to Kill (1990)** (8415015) **11.45 Breakout (1975)** (3389251) **1.25am School Daze (1988)** (2759706) **3.25-5.15 The Buddy System (1984)** (2641232)

TNT

9.00pm Cold Sassy Tree (1989) (39359812) **11.00 Sweet Bird of Youth (1962)** (26251473) **1.00am Village of the Damned (1960)** (69723482) **2.30 Children of the Damned (1964)** (65791400)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (49763) **7.30** The Pavilion End (51164) **8.30** Racing News (36725) **9.00** Tournoi de France (65386) **10.00** The Lions on Tour (99015) **11.30** Full Throttle (25034) **12.00** Tournoi de France (86218) **1.00pm** Golf: European Tour (48034) **1.30** Futbol Mundial (65454) **2.00** Pavilion End (19706) **3.00** Lions on Tour (25928) **4.30** Grand Prix Sailing (9522) **5.00** Full Throttle (1812) **5.30** Futbol Mundial (3102) **6.00** Sports Centre (8265) **6.30** Powerboat and Jetski World (1367) **7.00** Spanish Football (70980) **8.30** Tournoi de France (91522) **10.00** Sports Centre (31270) **10.30** Full Throttle (57218) **11.00** Trans World Sport (25183) **12.00** Sports Centre (99428) **12.30am** Grand Prix Sailing (60819) **1.00** Live NHL (86955) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (25787)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Fishing: Tight Lines (8202183) **9.00** Gaelic Games (8222947) **10.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (1772893) **11.30** US Seniors Golf (2214725) **12.30am-1.00** Golden Moments (8735690)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Grand Prix Sailing (53692657) **12.30pm** World of Super League (46149725) **2.00** Full Throttle (63217909) **2.30** Inside the PGA Tour (41303251) **3.00** Golf (39894229) **4.00-11.30** Live US Golf: US Open (65461473)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Football (54676) **9.30** Women's Golf (98201) **10.30** Karting (84589) **11.30** Motors Magazine (81657) **1.00pm** Mountain Bike (80034) **2.00** Live Tennis — Stella Artois (8660314) **7.00** Football (21367) **9.00** Tennis (40196) **10.30** Tennis (42386) **11.00** Sailing (40134) **11.30-12.30am** Equestrianism (31589)

UK GOLD

7.00am Record Breakers (4919473) **7.35** Neighbours (6524562) **8.00** Crossroads (7093034) **8.25** EastEnders (2303270) **9.00** The Bill (5045763) **9.30** You're Only Young Twice (5518812) **10.00** Duty Free (2108928) **10.30** The Sullivans (5041947) **11.00** Casualty (83433305) **12.05pm** Crossroads (88949015) **12.30** Neighbours (5529928) **1.00** EastEnders (3660386) **1.35** No Place Like Home (2239980) **2.15** Three Up, Two Down (5923378) **2.50** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (8187909) **3.30** The Bill (2180893) **4.00** Boon (7570893) **5.00** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (81842473) **6.05** EastEnders (3094414) **6.40** Sykes (3229611) **7.20** Dr Who: The Sontaran Experiment (3209522) **7.50** Only When I Laugh (5204270) **8.20** Hi-De-Hi (9248657) **9.00** The Bill (7509305) **9.30** Chancer (44640744) **10.35** Bottom (5773589) **11.15** Live at Jongleurs (8569473) **11.45** Gold Goes Pop (6573386) **12.30am** It's a Knockout (3822435) **1.20** Big Deal (5781706) **2.15** Shopping (64654961)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (7677909) **7.00** Coronation St (4018763) **7.30** Families (4097270) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (3922980) **9.00** The Professionals (6850034) **10.00** Gentle Touch (4093454) **11.00** London's Burning (4013218) **12.00** Coronation St (8219928) **12.30pm** Families (6303015) **1.00** Second Thoughts (4017034) **1.30** Good Life Guide (6302386) **2.00** Surprise, Surprise (8843183) **3.00** Gentle Touch (7657812) **4.00** The Professionals (7676947) **5.00** London's Burning (2535812) **6.00** Families (8567763) **6.30** Coronation St (8558015) **7.00** Gentle Touch (2999251) **8.00** The Professionals (2915299) **9.00** Coronation St (7665831) **9.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club (6383251) **10.00-11.00** London's Burning (2998522)

Trouble ahead in *Killer's Kiss* (Sky Movies Gold, 6.00pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (9922386) **6.25** Quack Attack (9901893) **6.50** Bonkers (4933589) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (6248102) **7.40** Aladdin (9041560) **8.05** Quack Pack (3590947) **8.30** Goof Troop (85015) **9.00** The Care Bears (3326980) **9.25** Under the Umbrella Tree (3345015) **9.50** Muppet Babies (6248367) **10.15** Grounding Marsh (1171305) **10.40** Sing Me a Story with Belle (8742763) **11.05** Paddington Peas (9644657) **11.10** Big Garage (8271251) **11.25** Welcome to Pooh Corner (2077744) **11.55** Fraggle Rock (1615893) **12.20pm** Mouse Tracks (3919522) **12.45** Timon and Pumbaa (98511367) **1.00** Boy Meets World (82929676) **1.25** Bonkers (98456831) **1.50** Quack Pack (52203980) **2.15** Aladdin (89525251) **2.40** The Care Bears (9439096) **3.00** The Little Mermaid (7890639) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (6295116) **3.40** Goof Troop (2856251) **4.30** Every Day's a Chooseday (5386) **5.00** Aladdin (7316096) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (9249725) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (904015) **6.00** New Doug (6251) **6.30** Boy Meets World (4201) **7.00** Brotherly Love (1218) **7.30** **FILM: Rock 'n' Roll Mom** (78180) **9.00** Dave's World (44183) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (87639)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (2759676) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (5147015) **7.00** Pizza Cats (7422638) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (7434473) **8.00** Beetleborgs (9191096) **8.30** Crocadoo (9190367) **9.00** Rimbaus Island (5158386) **9.20** Magic Box (5531218) **9.45** Dudley the Dragon (9960367) **10.05** Rimbaus Island (1587589) **10.25** Magic Box (8358015) **11.00** Jin Jin (9329299) **11.30** Pinocchio (9320928) **12.00** Inspector Gadget (9194183) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (77531386) **12.50** Power Rangers Zeo (77511522) **1.10** Beetleborgs (25143096) **1.30** Eek! (1103152) **2.00** Life with Louie (4912299) **2.30** Crocadoo (8492522) **3.00** Gadget Boy (4924034) **3.30** Eek! (8404367) **4.00** Life with Louie (8416102) **4.30** Power Rangers Zeo (8412386) **5.00** Beetleborgs (4996251) **5.30** Spiderman (8403638) **6.00** X Men (8493251) **6.30-7.00** Goosebumps

TCC

6.00am Iznogoud (92454) **6.30** Dangermouse (13473) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (44831) **7.30** The Tick (30638) **8.00** Batman (99218) **8.30** Art Attack (98589) **9.00** Art Attack (72541) **9.30** Earthworm Jim (18831) **10.00** Gravedale High (74675) **10.30** Flash Gordon (78725) **11.00** Creepy Crawlers (37893) **11.30** Cadillacs and Dinosaurs (38522) **12.00** Gravedale High (92305) **12.30pm** Stunt Dawgs (29947) **1.00** Batman (43102) **1.30** Dangermouse (28218) **2.00** Creepy Crawlers (3676) **2.30** Flash Gordon (8096) **3.00** Sonic the Hedgehog (2183) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (3541) **4.00** The Tick (2676) **4.30-5.00** Art Attack (1560)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **6.00am** to **9.00pm** Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula (47980) **6.30** Rocko (16947) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (47305) **7.30** Rugrats (26812) **8.00** Doug (35095) **8.30** Arthur (34367) **9.00** CBBC (58947) **9.30** CBBC (61909) **10.00** Wimzie's House (69229) **10.30** Babar (47831) **11.00** Magic School Bus (22947) **11.30** Mr Men/Victor and Maria/Barney/Lizzie's Library/Bod/Jimbo (23676) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (38183) **12.30pm** Richard Scarry (65725) **1.00** CBBC (46676) **1.30** CBBC (64096) **2.00** Dr Seuss (8102) **2.30** Arthur (7928) **3.00** Alvin (4909) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (2473) **4.00** Hey Arnold! (1980) **4.30** Rugrats (7164) **5.00** Sister Sister (9454) **5.30** Kenan and Kel (1744) **6.00** Alex Mack (8657) **6.30-7.00** Doug (9909)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (5526831) **1.00pm** Madison (3379831) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (5513367) **2.00** Hangtime (9458980) **2.30** California Dreams (2103744) **3.00** Byker Grove (8477015) **3.30** 9-2-5 (2115589) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2194096) **4.30** Hangtime (2183980) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (9472560) **5.30** California Dreams (2107560) **6.00** Byker Grove (2104473) **6.30** Madison (2195725) **7.00** Heartbreak High (6583589)

BRAVO

8.00pm New Twilight Zone (9478744) **8.30** Twisted (9457251) **9.00** Burning Zone (6572473) **10.00** Tour of Duty (6575560) **11.00** **FILM: The Stepfather** (8055396) **1.00am** Burning Zone (8871706) **2.00** Tour of Duty (4851416) **3.00** **FILM: Valley Girl** (2731597) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne (9218) **7.30** Roseanne (8893) **8.00** E UK (5638) **8.30** Almost Perfect (7473) **9.00** Cheers (90693) **9.30** Cybill (85589) **10.00** Frasier (39812) **10.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (48560) **11.00** We Know Where You Live (468015) **11.25** Robin (342096) **11.30** Nightstand (37763) **12.30am** Sledgehammer! (51961) **1.00** Cheers (24077) **1.30** Cybill (67226) **2.00** E UK (31394) **2.30** We Know Where You Live (23329) **3.00** Frasier (31313) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (34481)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (3486077) **1.30** One Step Beyond (2108752) **2.00** Friday the 13th (8587348) **3.00-4.00** Dark Shadows (2693418)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (5043305) **9.30** Garden Calendar (5518454) **10.00** Hooked on Fishing (2197270) **10.30** Room Service (5049589) **11.00** Painted House (7587183) **11.30** This Old House (7588812) **12.00** Just for Starters (5023541) **12.30pm** Julia Child (5510270) **1.00** Graham Kerr (3382305) **1.30** Home Again with Bob Vila (5519541) **2.00** Hometime (9461454) **2.30** Furniture on the Mend (2116218) **3.00** Our House (9480589) **3.30-4.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm (2111763)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm High Five (2190270) **4.30** Roadshow (2198454) **5.00** Time Travellers (9485034) **5.30** Justice Files (2110034) **6.00** Wild Things: Troubled Waters (5535589) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (9465270) **7.30** Disaster (2197183) **8.00** Danger Zone (6565183) **9.00** Top Marques (7507947) **9.30** Talk to the Animals (5530034) **10.00** Justice Files (6588034) **11.00** Classic Wheels (3369454) **12.00** First Flights (6643400) **12.30am** Wars in Peace (7332077) **1.00** Disaster (2584874) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000 (6855918)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten (7292305) **5.00** Mysteries of the Bible (1455299) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (3768473) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Shakespeare (8226763)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour.
5.05pm Cross Wits (3137676) **5.50** Family Fortunes (912034) **6.30** Catchphrase (802744) **7.05** Winner Takes All (939522) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (740725) **8.20** All Clued Up (815763) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (123980) **9.35** Sale of the Century (921469) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (4790218) **11.20** Studs (951855) **12.00** Winner Takes All **12.30am** Hart to Hart (39416) **1.30** Moonlighting (26226) **2.30** African Skies (89868) **3.30** My Two Dads (83771) **4.00** The Fall Guy (49619) **5.00** HSN Direct Shopping (42145)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (25103541) **9.05** A Woman Called Smith (1944831) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (7691302) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4202034) **10.55** Shopping Emporium (41264183) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (9270454) **11.50** Brookside (5727218) **12.25pm** Why Me? Real Life Case Studies (35807183) **12.55** Tempest! (7738367) **1.40** Rolonda (2114541) **2.30** The Agony Experience (5100183) **3.00** Live at Three (67691096) **4.05** Jerry Springer (8742034) **5.05** Lingo (52713812) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (5111299) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (9886164) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (4619299) **7.05** Hearts Afire (4543473) **7.35** Brookside (2579589) **8.05** Rolonda (4381560) **9.00** **FILM: One of Her Own** (12507855) **10.55** Shopping Emporium (5746251) **11.00-12.00** Sex Lie Down Under (5579560)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Presents **8.00** Raahat **8.25** Ek Nazar **8.30** Pakistan Business Update **9.00** Janm Daata **9.30** Vijli Na Chamke Moora **10.00** Apraadi **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Daslaan **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** Hindi **FILM: Chaltz Purza** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.05** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Vikram Aur Betaal **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry **6.25** Ek Nazar **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Euro Zindagi **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News and Euronews **8.35** Andaz **9.05** Jaal **9.30** Haseratein **10.00** Yaadon Ki Baarat **10.30** Peoples Club **11.00** Mano Ya Na Mano **11.30-12.00** Antakshari

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts from the USA and Europe

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds. Includes The Vinyl Years and Ten of the Best

CRICKET 49
Reiffel forced to play waiting game for Australia

SPORT

TENNIS 50
Beaten Chang given short shrift at Queen's

THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Bentley scores memorable solo try

Mighty Lions roar back to tame Gauteng

Gauteng Lions	14
British Isles XV	20

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

JOHN BENTLEY, with a wonderful piece of individual magic, scored the try that earned the British Isles victory over Gauteng at Ellis Park here last night. His 60-metre dash embellished an outstanding defensive performance as the Lions recovered from defeat against Northern Transvaal last Saturday to overturn one of South Africa's most powerful provincial teams.

The late withdrawal of Bateman with a hamstring problem permitted that rarity on any Lions tour — a back division entirely composed of English players.

There was a hint of rain in the air as Gauteng, fifth in the Super 12 tournament, erupted into a sustained attack on the Lions line. Bentley's clearance gave Du Toit the opportunity to run the ball back and force mistakes from the defence. The Gauteng full back mis-hit his first penalty but, when the Lions backs fell offside under their own posts, Du Toit made no mistake from 12 metres.

The Lions had to rely on Roux's high kick for their first chance to play the game in the opposition half. Beal stood his ground and sustained movement of the ball gave Catt, playing his first game in a Lions jersey, a sight of goal after Gauteng fell offside.

The Bath stand-off half, so dependable on tour with England in Argentina, hit the upright from 39 metres but minutes later, when Gauteng were offside aagain, Catt levelled matters. He had a further opportunity when Grau, the Argentina prop, was offside but, from nearly halfway, the ball flew wide. Underwood kept out Gillingham five metres from the line and the Lions were a shade fortunate that the ball fell their way, allowing Healey to clear. There was nothing fortunate about the way the pack stood their ground at the scrums, however. In the first half-hour only one went to the Lions.

Coach's leap of faith 47

A brief exchange between the respective hookers ended in favour of the Lions, but the pressure continued until Tappe Henning, the referee, penalised the front row and Du Toit, from 20 metres, restored Gauteng's lead. Immediately, Catt had his own attempt at goal after Van Rensburg knocked on and Gauteng were offside but, as one set of floodlights flickered and died, so Catt's effort drifted wide.

Underwood glimpsed a chink of light after deft work by Back, Wainwright and Catt, but the wing tripped as the cover closed in. It was the first try-scoring chance the Lions had created, made all the worse by Du Toit's third penalty after a lineout obstruction. Before the interval Catt hit an upright again, this time the left-hand one.

The Lions emerged after half-time as reinvigorated as the lighting but, for all their initial efforts, they could not immediately forge a passage through Gauteng's defence.

Nor could Catt, with his sixth attempt at goal, reduce the gap and, rather than take a seventh, the Lions opted to kick into the corner. Davidson won the lineout, but the maul was held and, when the ball came right, Catt went for the gap but dropped the ball five metres out. It was not the happiest of debuts.

A coruscating Gauteng attack carried them 60 metres and Beal only stopped Hendriks at the corner. Underwood's brave tackle on Rossouw prevented a try from Roux's cross-kick and ended the hooker's game, Dalton replacing him.

It was significant, too, that when Underwood went off with an arm injury, Jenkins — a proven kicker — replaced him at full back, with Beal moving to the wing.

With 15 minutes to go, the game was transformed by two fabulous tries from the Lions. Davidson, enjoying an inspired game, established the ruck from which Greenwood created space and Healey darted 20 metres for the score. From the touchline, Jenkins's conversion gave the Lions the lead for the first time.

Three minutes later the visitors were exultant when Bentley scored the try of the tour. Jenkins collected a loose kick and fed Bentley on his own ten-metre line. The Newcastle wing chose not to kick into space but veered past seven Gauteng players for a wonderful score under the posts. Gauteng now looked a beaten team and an injury-time try by Vos was scant consolation.

SCORERS: Gauteng Lions: Try: Vos. Penalty goals: Du Toit 3. British Isles XV: Tries: Healey, Bentley. Conversions: Jenkins 2. Penalty goals: Catt, Jenkins.

GAUTENG LIONS: [illegible] J Gillingham [illegible] Hendriks [illegible] Rossouw [illegible] Grau [illegible]

BRITISH ISLES XV: **N Beal** (Northampton and England); **J Bentley** (Newcastle and England); **J Guscott** (Bath and England); **W Greenwood** (Leicester); **T Underwood** (Newcastle and England); **M Catt** (Bath and England); **A Healey** (Leicester and England); **T Smith** [illegible]; **B Williams** [illegible]; **P Wallace** [illegible]; **R Wainwright** [illegible]; **N Redman** (Bath and England); **J Davidson** [illegible]; **N Back** (Leicester and England); **T Rodber** [illegible]. Underwood replaced by **N Jenkins** [illegible].

Referee: T Henning [illegible]

Greg Rusedski powers to victory over Mark Woodforde on a busy day for the British No 2 at Queen's Club. Report: page 50. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Hoddle entitled to rest on his laurels

FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

HENRY MOORE'S vision of a figure reclining has graced one end of the elegant garden at the British Embassy here for eight years. For two hours yesterday afternoon, the Ambassador and a small coterie of guests invited to celebrate the end of the Tournoi de France saw English football's version of a figure at rest as well.

Away from the heat, the hustle and the *haute couture* of the Rue du Faubourg St Honoré, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, mingled with the other guests, chatting with his assistant, John Gorman, and his old adversary, Michel Platini, and generally exuding the air of a man satisfied with a job well done.

England may have lost their final match of the tournament to Brazil in the Parc des Princes on Tuesday night, courtesy of a goal brilliantly crafted by Leonardo and expertly finished by Romario, but still everyone was offering their congratulations to Hoddle yesterday as he prepared to follow his squad back home.

England had won the tournament against all expectations and in an atmosphere that seemed more competitive than friendly. More significantly, they had discovered a spirit of unity off the field and a consistency and sense of purpose and optimism on it that seemed to have slid away in the aftermath of the euphoria of Euro 96.

The three games against Italy, France and Brazil that could have dragged on like a dirge had England lost to Poland a fortnight ago and turned into a protracted agony of hand-wringing, were turned instead into a summer festival, where Hoddle was bold enough to experiment where others were not, where fortune favoured his bravery.

One of his greatest rewards was the performance of Paul Scholes, the Manchester United midfield player, who announced himself on his full debut, against Italy in Nantes, by making one goal for Ian Wright and scoring another. Everyone watching that match felt they were witnessing the start of a great international career.

Scholes: promising start

David Beckham, whose tournament was marred by his disciplinary problems, nevertheless showed enough promise when Hoddle played him in central midfield to suggest that he may move into that position in the run-up to the World Cup finals next year, either as a replacement for or a complement to Paul Gascoigne.

Even Gascoigne, much maligned and lacking mobility and fitness at the start of the tournament, saved his best for last against Brazil. He showed flashes of the player of old, the one who could consistently do things with a panache that eluded the rest. If he can stay fit next season, he may be able to coax a few sparks from the embers of his career.

Correctly, though, Hoddle chose Sol Campbell and Paul Ince as his best players of the Tournoi de France. Both have performed with such authority that they have made themselves indispensable. "It is very hard for a coach to pick out a player," Hoddle said yesterday, "but those two stood out.

"Sol has really grown as a player and Paul Ince does what he does better than anybody anywhere. He bursts past defenders, he tackles, he holds the midfield together. Every player here has moved a step up the ladder, but Paul more so than most."

Beyond the individual performances — and there was not a single England player whose reputation has not been enhanced during the past fortnight — the cumulative effect of the Tournoi has been to leave England brimming with optimism about the approaching denouement of their World Cup qualifying campaign.

Moldova should be comfortably accounted for at Wembley on September 10 and if there are no unforeseen setbacks, Hoddle's squad will travel to Rome for the showdown with Italy a month later, confident that they can get the result they need even if, as is likely, it is a victory.

"I have discovered a greater depth during this tournament," Hoddle said. "There are players like Les Ferdinand, Paul Merson, Darren Anderton, Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler who are not on this trip and the players who are here have pushed themselves up the list.

"All the time we have had together over the last few weeks has been incredibly important because there is usually so little time to work with the players in the run-up to internationals. We have all put in a lot of groundwork and they are starting to know what I want and I am getting to know them better, too.

"We are much further down the line now after this tournament. I have found a group of players who can do well but I cannot say whether we are ahead of schedule as a team until we go to Italy. If we get a result there, the answer will be 'yes'."

T I M E S T W O C R O S S W O R D

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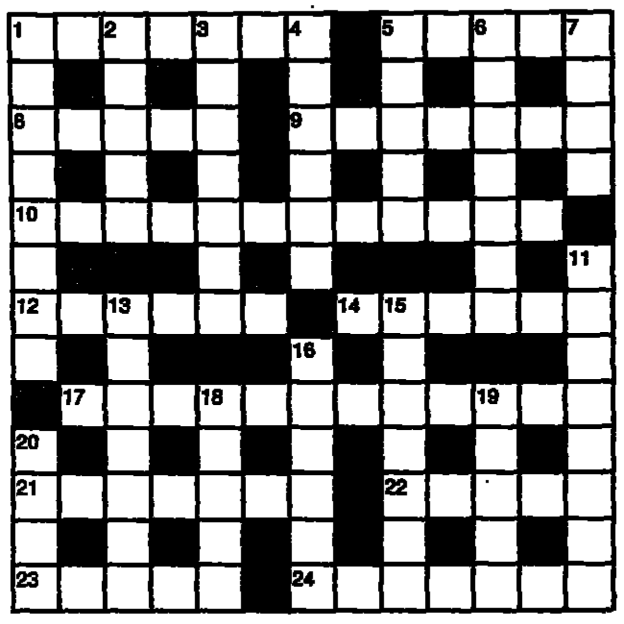

ACROSS
1 Demonstrator: borderer (7)
5 Boundary (5)
8 Remove program errors (5)
9 Overeater (7)
10 Prayerful plea (12)
12 Lack of interest (6)
14 Itinerant salesman (6)
17 Utterly clean, neat (5,3,4)
21 A covering (7)
22 Insipid (5)
23 C16 royal house (5)
24 Fri night to Sun night (7)

DOWN
1 23 part-song (8)
2 Disprove (charge) (5)
3 *Rake's Progress* engraver (7)
4 Sturdy (machine): rough, uneven (6)
5 Eighteen French kings (5)
6 Farmer's pick (7)
7 Sound quality (4)
11 WI island off Venezuela (8)
13 Congratulate (7)
15 Able to be heard (7)
16 Vegetable: essential part (6)
18 Dance: pickled bud (5)
19 Stage (of process) (5)
20 Fool: teasingly reproach (4)

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Name/Address ....

SOLUTION TO NO 1117
ACROSS: 1 Knell 7 Apropos 8 Frosted 9 Yorkist 11 Argosy 13 Territory 15 Euphemism 19 Hither 21 Piquant 23 Annuity 24 Pullman 25 Wolfe
DOWN: 1 Kafka 2 Enough 3 Latest 4 Lady 5 Socket 6 Tonsure 10 Onrush 12 Yeoman 14 Curious 16 Hourly 17 Minnow 18 Shrill 20 Rhyme 22 Tank

Wimbledon land prize catch

BY JOHN GOODBODY

WIMBLEDON'S dream of matching the big Premiership teams in spending power came closer to realisation yesterday when two Norwegian businessmen announced plans to spend around £30 million to buy an 80 per cent stake in the club.

Kjell Inge Roekke, a fishing industry billionaire, and his associate, Bjoern Rune Gjelsten, are the men who will put money into the south London team that has never been been able to spend on the same scale as rivals such as Manchester United, Arsenal, Newcastle United and Liverpool.

A year ago, the Norwegians considered a bid for Leeds United when their compatriot, Rune Hauge, was involved in the negotiations. It was Hauge, agent of many Norwegian players, who gave George Graham £425,000 in the notorious "bung" affair, so leading to his dismissal by Arsenal in 1995 and his suspension for a year by the Football Association.

Sam Hamman, Wimbledon's managing director, who has guided the club to consistent success in the last 20 years, declined yesterday to say how he had met the new backers. However, Wimbledon have gone to Norway on pre-season tours for the last five years. Roekke and Gjelsten, are the majority shareholders in Molde, a club from a coastal town with a population of 21,000, which won the Norwegian Cup in 1994.

The first player expected to sign for Wimbledon as part of the new arrangement will be Daniel Berg Hestad, 21, a defensive midfield player for Molde. "Daniel and the other players in Molde know that they have an open door to English football," Gjelsten said.

English football is tremendously popular in Norway where Premiership games are shown live on television.

Hamman denied reports from Oslo that he had given up control. "I am not selling out. I will be in complete charge of all the key decisions of the club. I am the steering wheel. My foot is on the accelerator and my foot is on the brake," he said.

He summarised the new arrangement as an "engagement." He said: "We have signed the first piece of paperwork. The marriage will follow over the next few months. Money is available but it is embarrassing to talk about how much. The only thing that matters is that it is profitable to Wimbledon."

Answering questions at the club's training ground, Hamman said: "I have agreed to have the say on who comes in and who leaves the club but I am sure they will be allowed to have a say in the bigger decisions.

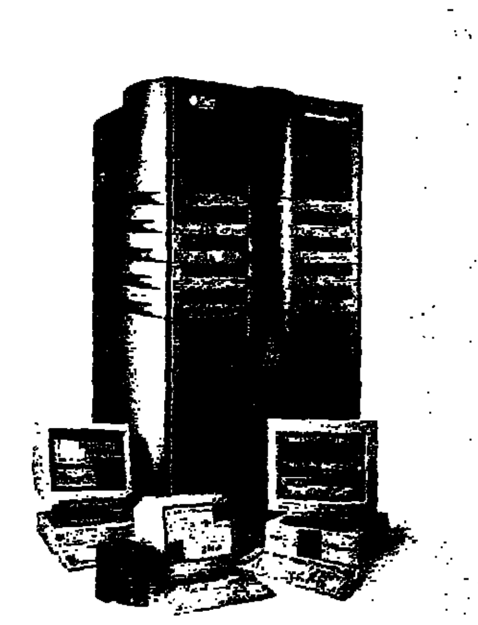
"The way that I see football going is that you need to have a lot of money to survive. If we want to continue to progress then we need these people. We need to be ready for things like pay-per-view and the European League, which will be here in a few years' time."

Hamman had no doubt that the club could retain its unique spirit, emphasising that it was the Norwegians' commitment rather than their cash which was attractive to him.

"We have got a wonderful family here and we will do things the same way that we have always done. The two guys understand that and they would not want it any other way."

The priority is to move from Selhurst Park, where Wimbledon are the tenants of Crystal Palace. Hamman said that ideally the club would like to return to the Wimbledon area, but there were always huge problems when planning permission was sought.

Gullit goes Dutch, page 44
Brian Glanville, page 44



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